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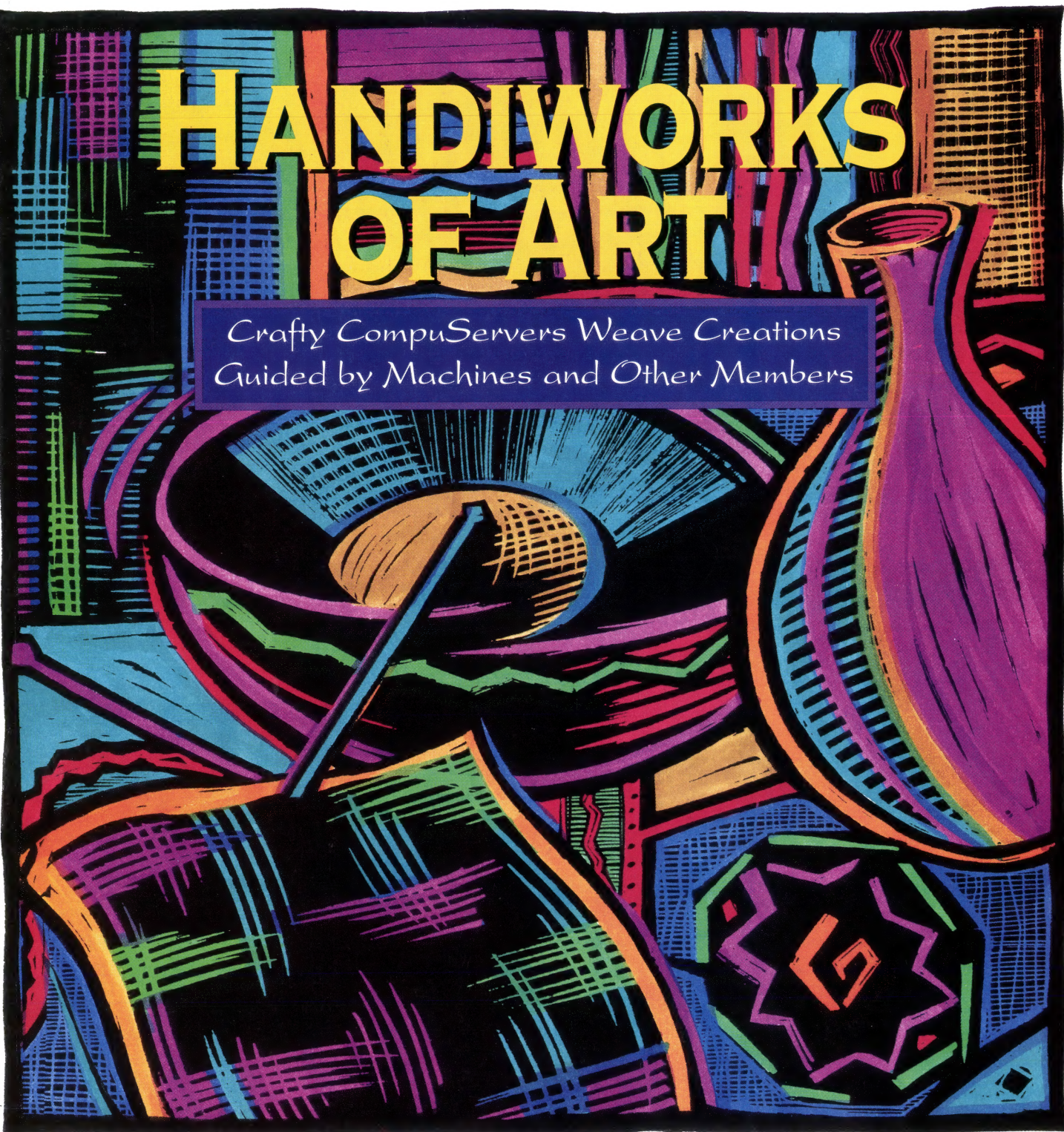
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Crafts are everything computers are not: uninhibited instead of precise, deliberate instead of expeditious, imaginative instead of just calculatingly productive. So it comes as little surprise that many people, in a time when an online connection can bring you everything, take time to hand-make anything—from stitchery to stained glass to wooden bowls. We look at Crafts Forum members who follow their muses. Plus: Homemade gifts; crafty business; forum files.

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It used to be DOS was DOS, Mac was Mac and never the floppy shall meet. But everybody from LAN dwellers to professionals bringing work home to kids finishing their papers at school are finding they often have to start on one platform and finish on the other. You still can't trade every file perfectly, but many hardware and software solutions are making the transition easier, if not effortless. Includes: Palmtop-to-PC transfers; helpful uploads.

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Dear Reader

If you drive through the countryside north of CompuServe World Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, you'll find yourself in the heart of Amish country. Horse-drawn plows and buggies are common sights, as are the plain white houses. In the stores, especially in Berlin and Charm, Ohio, you'll find handcrafted gifts, such as quilts and wooden cooking utensils.

We purport to know what inspires the Amish to handcraft their possessions and attribute it to a desire to live a plain, simple life. But why do many high-tech citizens of the machine-made world also handcraft possessions and gifts? Granted, handcrafted objects offer durability and original designs and are made from quality materials; however, creating something by hand takes so much time, and who has any to spare?

We turned to Crafts Forum members to learn what drives the crafts person to create—to spend the long hours knitting a sweater, weaving a tapestry or “turning” a bowl. Indeed, we let several section leaders and members explain their craft, its purpose in their lives and why some use the computer in their process of creation and some stick strictly to traditional methods. You can read what we discovered in “Handiworks of Art,” starting on Page 10. In addition, if you're thinking about making this year's Christmas or Hanukkah gifts, you had better start now, but first read “Not Bought and Paid For: Making a Gift Yourself” on Page 12.

* * *

Top performance under pressure is a lauded asset in the workplace. So is risk-taking and thriving on variety. But taken to extremes, these “assets” could, in reality, be symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder, a chronic neurological condition once thought to affect only children yet now being found in adults.

Little is known about ADD. Consequently, controversy surrounds it. Many think it's the decade's new fad disease. Some think it's simply a catchall for a potpourri of symptoms. Those who suffer from it, however, struggle to find knowledgeable physicians and proper medication and to educate the public as to why they are easily distracted and unable to complete projects, let alone sustain personal relationships.

We talked to members of the ADD Forum to learn more about this controversial disorder and to find out how those who suffer from it cope not only with the symptoms but also with society's lack of understanding. Read “Where Concentration's No Game” on Page 38 to get more insight on this condition. Then take advantage of the ADD Forum's (GO ADD) free week of connect-time charges, June 16-23, to obtain further information.

* * *

As always, we've delved into some common computing problems, sought solutions and identified online areas that provide information and support. One this month concerns transferring files between DOS and Macintosh platforms, a common problem that confounds those who use both. “Between DOS and Mac” on Page 20 provides the latest transfer tickets to smooth computing along with a helpful list of programs to assist in the process. Also, if you're a Windows user but wish you had the easier Mac interface, there are alternatives, i.e., alternative desktop utilities that supplant Windows' standard toolkit and make you feel as if you've switched operating systems. Are illusions of Macintosh at hand? Read “Doing Windows Differently” on Page 25 for the reality check.

Kassie Rose
Editor

Cyberstuff

I really enjoyed the article "All Things Cyber" (March, p.10). As a wrench-turning refrigeration technician for a large grocery store chain, I thought I would be safe from "gee whiz" technology for a while, but I'm not. We have an energy management system that allows me to monitor my refrigeration racks in ways I never dreamed of two years ago. It also controls the air conditioning and light scheduling. All of my stores are linked to my PC by modem. With this high-quality information, I spend less time troubleshooting problems and more time finding those little freon leaks that are destroying our environment (the computer monitors CFC freon levels, too). We will all be cyber-ized sooner rather than later, and I am better off for it.

Mike Borden
Ocala, Florida

I have to hand it to you. The March issue's feature on "cybereverything" made me feel almost as if I were reading *Wired* instead of *CompuServe Magazine*. One point of clarification inspired this letter. The term "zine" is derived from "fanzine," not magazine. (Fanzine is, of course, derived from magazine, so you're partially right.) The implication of the "Cybermag" portion of the feature (p.14) is that 'zines are by nature new and electronic. 'Zines go back as far as personal ownership of printing devices. The fanzine craze exploded in the 1930s when hectographs, ditto machines and mimeographs became widely available. Xerographic copiers and relatively inexpensive offset printing supported the craze through the mid-'80s. Digital-medium 'zines are just another step along the path (and the other media are still with us).

Dan Deckert
Los Angeles, California

While reading "All Things Cyber," I stared with disbelief at the suggestion that the combination of PC, TV and VCR should stop at the garbage disposal!

I pray every day for the integration of the garbage disposal and the coming "information superhighway," with its 500 channels of mind-numbing noninformation. How else will we be able to quickly and easily dispose of the mountain of electronic junk piped over the wires (or airwaves)? The electronic garbage disposal will become the great new icon of the cyberworld!

Eric Gersh
Heppenheim, Germany

Behind the Screens

I was delighted to find mention of Jean Shepherd in John Edwards' column "Four Heroes with Everything" (March, p.8). I couldn't agree more with Edwards' praise of Shepherd. I discovered Shepherd in the late 1950s with his broadcasts on New York's WOR radio station. Much as I tried at that time, I could not relate to my friends the experience of listening to him. Harder still was getting them to listen for themselves, since radio reception wasn't great in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

I finally gave up. When he left the air, I, too, followed his writings and rediscovered him on PBS and in the movie *A Christmas Story*. I even found a couple of his LPs. But since then, nothing. I miss his broadcasts. Please tell me he's alive and well.

Paul Gardner
Deerfield Beach, Florida

John Edwards' column "Four Heroes with Everything" really struck a chord with me. I, too, had my interest in science and math kindled by reading Isaac Asimov, admired Wayne Green's outspokenness and, though the name Herb Friedman was not familiar, probably built one of his projects (yes, I was one of those "youths wearing pocket savers"). Even today my heroes include author Michael Crichton and programmer Mike Cowlishaw (inventor of the REXX language). Now, how can we get more kids to adopt heroes of this intellect?

Brad Whitlock
Rockford, Illinois

I want to make a clarification regarding John Edwards' column "Spot Junior's 'Achievements'" (February, p.8) in which he grossly misuses the term "hacker." A hacker is one who enjoys computers and working with them or who programs for the joy of it. A hacker is *not*, contrary to popular belief, someone who cracks passwords and wreaks general havoc. That is a "cracker" or, if the phone is involved, a "phreaker." To lump these malicious miscreants in with proper hackers is a gross insult to legitimate users and promotes unnecessary "net paranoia."

Also, reading *Phrack* does not mean that one may or may not be a cracker or phreaker. It provides information on phreaking but also contains a wealth of information about government attempts to restrict computer users' rights.

I realize that Mr. Edwards was being facetious; I did chuckle at the story.

Camille R. Klein
Fargo, North Dakota

14.4 Modems

Having just bought a new 14,400-bps fax/modem, I was pleased to read Michael Naver's article ("14.4's Speed Bumps," February, p.21). The speed has improved dramatically over my old 2400-bps modem, especially when downloading or viewing GIF files (such as satellite weather photos). And, contrary to many of the stories in the article, I have had little or no problems with data exchanges on CompuServe or other bulletin board services.

David Daly
Clawson, Michigan

I found the article "14.4's Speed Bumps" aggravating. It was nothing more than a five-page advertisement for modem vendors and a big pat on your own backs for being on the leading edge with 14.4-bps service to a handful of selective markets (aside from the surcharged 800-number service).

In Huntsville, we're still piddling along at 2400 bps, while smaller markets already have 9600-bps service. I agree there's a great advantage to going to a faster bps, but the article identifies only the cost savings when using extended services at 9600 or 14,400 bps. I don't care to hear about your 14.4 service when you don't have definite plans to have 9600 bps in all markets.

Steve Becker
Madison, Alabama

Extended Characters

Like the majority of European users, I was delighted that extended characters, such as accents and umlauts, have become available on CompuServe; 7 bits always seemed like such a limitation when the PC itself uses 8 bits for most operations.

However, I soon realized that the one aspect of Windows that most frustrates me had been duplicated. Enabling extended characters does not, unfortunately, mean that all 8-bit characters are available; it is limited to those in the Win-ANSI (Roman 1) specification. This might not bother most people, but when trying to communicate in Japanese (which uses two 8-bit characters for each symbol), it is a crucial distinction. I cannot wait for the day when Unicode is universally adopted, and we are all able to communicate in the language of our choice.

Ben Jones
Kent, United Kingdom



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FIDELITY	102	166	221	221	38	43	61	
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MONITOR

Hobby with a Catch

If you immediately associate the word "bass" with a multimedia sound control, you may need to spend some time away from your computer. The members who meet in Section 4, "Fly-Fishing," of the Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORS) suggest you take up a rod and reel and look for the kind of bass that has a large or small mouth rather than a control setting.

The section's members believe that spending a day in a country stream, far from computers, modems and software, can work wonders on the human psyche. And, best of all, the financial cost is downright reasonable. "The beginning fly-fisher can get an excellent rod-reel-line set for less than \$150," says member Jeff Bryan. "Toss in some flies and a few other things, and you can be on the water for much less than \$200."

Jim Abbs, the online representative from the Federation of Fly Fishers, states that learning how to fly-fish requires a few books. He suggests that a beginner acquire texts on the basics of fly-fishing, fly-casting and tying flies. He also recommends getting some one-on-one training. "Find a local fly-fishing club. Most have free clinics lasting for a day or so. You can meet other beginners, as well as experts willing to take you under their wings."

Many clubs organize regular fly-fishing outings, ranging from a few hours at the local pond to a couple of weeks in the wilds of Montana or Maine.

For fly-fishing information, tips, graphics and programs, visit the Outdoors Forum's Library 5, "Fishing."

When the Sign Says, 'Next Node 3,000 Miles'

Imagine logging on to CompuServe from the middle of the Sahara, where there's plenty of silicon but no power or telephone service.

Frank Guinard, who leads Section 12, "Satellite Communications," in the Telecommunications Forum (GO TELECOM), says accessing CompuServe and other online resources from desolate locations is becoming increasingly practical. The required tools include a portable computer, modem and satellite telephone that connects to one

of the five orbiting Inmarsat satellites.

Guinard has tested access to CompuServe via satellite from Palawan, a remote island in the Philippines. "I had only a PowerBook with internal modem and a portable Inmarsat-A (a suitcase-size satellite telephone)," he says.

Satellite telephones first attracted public attention during the Persian Gulf War, when correspondents for the Cable News Network used the technology to report directly from the battle-

field. Current satellite telephones are prohibitively expensive for individuals to own and operate, but Guinard predicts that within the next few years people will be able to acquire smaller, next-generation systems for less than \$1,000. Airtime costs eventually should be less than \$1 per minute.

"Using PenWindows and WinCIM, I can read my mail from a personal digital assistant in the middle of the Sahara desert," says Guinard.

Let's hope he wears a hat.

For the Kids: Hit Fun in the Summertime

If you're looking for a great summertime activity for the kids, encourage them to read. You'll find lists of the best books, software and recordings for the younger crowd in the Mensa Forum's (GO MENSA) Library 4, "Gifted Children."

The most prestigious awards the American Library Association presents each year are the Newbery and Caldecott medals, and a complete list of these winners is in BKAWRD.ANN. This year the Newbery Medal was awarded to *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, a story of a utopian world that isn't as perfect as it seems; the Caldecott Medal went to *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say, a watercolor picture book portraying a Japanese immigrant's travels to a new land.

Newbery honor books were *Crazy Lady* by James Leslie Conly, *Dragon's Gate* by Laurence Yep and *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* by Russell Freedman.

To further guide your children's reading list, the file BOOK94.LST offers the ALA's list of Notable Children's Books, including *Peppe the Lamplighter* by Elisa Bartone and *Maybe Yes, Maybe No, Maybe Maybe* by Susan Patron.

You also can use these lazy, hazy days to improve writing, math and reasoning skills—all in the guise of games—through outstanding computer software. The ALA has published a list of



BRIAN BEHNKE

the programs it deems best in the file SOFT94.LST, including *Super Solvers: Gizmos & Gadgets*, in which kids 7 to 12 solve more than 200 physical science puzzles and simulations, and *Thinkin' Things*, which allows children from 4 to 8 to experiment with computer art while building their musical, rhythmic, visual, logical and math abilities.

Brighten up those rainy days with good music. You'll find a list of the ALA's Notable Children's Recordings in RCRD94.LST, including *Animal Tales*, performed by Bill Schontz, and *Family Garden*, performed by John McCutcheon.

With these winners by your side, you may not hear that familiar summertime whine: There's nothing to do!

Vacation of the Future (Past?)

Time travel. It has been the subject of countless books, movies and TV shows. But can people really move through space and time to fly a kite with Ben Franklin, do lunch with Genghis Khan or have a hot date with Joan of Arc? Many members of the Space Forum (GO SPACEFORUM) believe the concept is theoretically possible.

A phenomenon known as the Closed Timelike Curve may enable people to go back in time, says member James "Bat" Masterson. "The principle of 'causality' states that for every occurrence there must be a cause. When you see a baseball flying over a ballpark fence, there must have been a batter, or something, that hit the ball first—never the other way around." So Masterson, among others, believes it may be possible to follow a string of events in reverse to arrive at a specific point in the past. But just how this can be done nobody knows. Masterson notes that the issue was analyzed in the March 1994 issue of *Scientific American* in the article "The Quantum Physics of Time Travel."

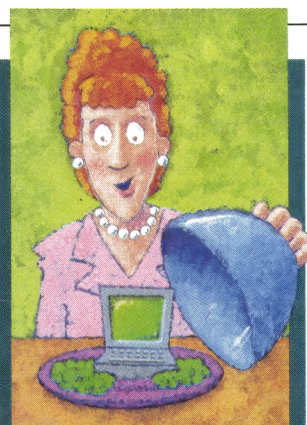
Member Danny Deger claims it would be easier to go forward in time. "All you have to do is go really, really fast or get close to a huge mass such as a black hole." He notes that a case also can be made for suspended animation, as in cryogenic hibernation, as a form of forward time travel.

To explore time travel further, now or in the future, visit the Space Forum and join the discussion with members in Section 16, "Space-Time Physics."

Hey—Dream Believers

Some people dream about parading down Fifth Avenue buck naked and then realizing they've missed the big final exam. (Yawn.) Other people do what's known as lucid dreaming: out-of-body experiences in which one is technically asleep but conscious. Practitioners—many of whom hang around Section 13, "Dreams," of the New Age Forum—describe it as an altered state in which they may fly, walk through walls, glean spiritual insights.

For more information on the phenomenon, check out the ongoing discussions in the forum and read the file LUCID.TXT, in Library 11, "Psychic Abilities," a thread about why and how people pursue lucid dreams. GO NEWAGE (or just create your own reality and astroproject there).



Weight Loss by Log-on

When the munchie attack hits in the evening hours, Joan Wilson has a few words of advice for those trying to shed some pounds and inches: Don't dine—get online!

Wilson, a member of the Crafts Forum, realized the hardest time of day to keep her diet intact was after dinner. Wanting to find an activity that required the use of both her hands so she couldn't eat, she asked if other forum members might be interested in an online diet support group.

About 12 dieters share messages throughout the evening hours in the Crafts Forum's (GO CRAFTS) Section 7, "Quilting." "We talk about the ups and downs of life, and try to get online rather than eat when life goes down instead of up," says Wilson, who shed 17 pounds in two months on her online diet.

"I knew I had to replace the habit of snacking after dinner with something I enjoyed even more. I can't type when I have something else in my hands," she explains, noting that the computer is in a spare bedroom far from the kitchen. Logistics do help.

The dieters reward the one who loses the most weight in a given week with a "skinny"—a quarter yard of fabric mailed by each of the other dieters.

New members are always welcome to join in.

To the World, This Is the Super Bowl

Quick! What's the most popular sport in the world?

Football, better known as soccer in the United States, showcases the world's best teams every four years for the sport's most coveted prize, the World Cup. Held this summer in the United States, the World Cup is arguably the world's most popular sporting event: The 1990 finals between West Germany and Argentina boasted a television audience exceeding 1 billion viewers.

Sports Forum member Bob Hesse of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was one of those watching. He became a die-hard football fan while living in Iran in 1978—the only year that country reached the finals—and hasn't missed a World Cup competition since. Having lived in seven of the 24 countries competing, he'll have no trouble finding teams to cheer for when he attends the first and second rounds in Orlando, Florida.

If you can't be part of the live action, check out the scores, images and highlights of all the



ROCCO MAIOLLO

games through CompuServe's extensive World Cup coverage (GO WCUP). You'll find up-to-the-minute coverage from The Associated Press, Reuters and United Press International sports wires in the Executive News Service (GO ENS). For pictures of the best plays, consult Reuter News Pictures Forum's (GO NEWSPI) Library 6, "Sports GIFs," and Library 12,

"Sports JPEGs," where photo images of the games will be uploaded within hours of play. You'll also be able to obtain news clips about the event in German, French or English.

And to offer your opinions on the finer points of the game, players' performances and the views of others, visit the Sports Forum's (GO FANS) Section 16, "World Cup Soccer."

Monitor

Contributors: Cathryn Conroy, John Edwards, Lindsay Van Gelder

Behind the Screens

with John Edwards



'Delete,' Quite the Dirty Word

When I was 9 years old—back in those golden days before the CIA implanted a secret transmitter inside my head—I was made to endure a very embarrassing and soul-shattering experience.

It was 1964, and I was home sick with the measles. My fourth-grade teacher, Miss Barbell, took advantage of my shattered physical condition to haul my little brother out of his first-grade class, escort him to her shabby little classroom and show him my desk.

"Your brother's desk is a mess!" shouted Miss Barbell, who had a serious thing about desks. "Tell your parents about your brother's desk. His desk is a health hazard. Ask them why he can't keep his desk clean. Tell them it smells. Let them know it has liquids dripping out of it." And so on and so on.

So little Benedict Quisling Edwards came home and spilled the legumes about my desk and the various forms of flora and fauna that thrived within it. Well, you can guess the upshot: No more beer for a week, smoking privileges revoked and I wasn't allowed to use the bathroom after 6 p.m.

Fortunately, I survived my punishment. But I'm still a mess—particularly when it comes to my PC's hard disk. (You knew I'd work in the computer angle sooner or later.)

You see, I have great difficulty practicing what you might call proper hard disk hygiene. I keep buying larger and larger hard disks just to keep pace

with the flow. My hard disk isn't so much a storage subsystem as a data landfill.

Oh, I suppose I could reach into my hard disk and clean it out with DELs and asterisks and other fancy DOS cleansers. But I sort of like it the way it is. I enjoy the surprises it springs on me—such as finding a file named RUST.TXT and discovering it contains an essay on the Russo-Turkish War that I downloaded from the IBM Hardware Forum years ago.

So I fully expect the data on my hard disk to continue to grow—maybe even exponentially. It'll continue to expand and swell, rising to and surpassing 100 megabytes, 1 gigabyte, 100 gigabytes, 1 terabyte, 100 terabytes, until it envelops the earth, the solar system, the galaxy, the universe.

Then I'll get sick, and Miss Barbell will arrive, carrying a copy of *DOS Utilities* and my little lumpen brother.

For more BTS gems by John Edwards, GO OLT-130. Edwards is a contributing editor of CompuServe Magazine. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,412.

WORLD UPDATE

Ziff Has French, German Forums

ZiffNet now offers local-language forums to correspond with the German *PC-Professionell* and French *PC Expert* magazines. The Ziff PCpro Forum (GO PCPRO) and the PC Expert Forum (GO PCEFORUM) allow readers to discuss software, hardware and the PC industry with editors, experts and industry insiders. The forums also offer the latest versions of Ziff-Davis benchmarks, plus shareware, utilities, macros, and the latest news on trends and popular products. The Ziff PCpro Forum joins the Ziff Windows Forum (GO GERWIN), the online counterpart to *Windows Magazin*, as the second forum related to a German-language publication offered by Ziff Verlag GmbH. The *PC Magazine U.K.* Online area (GO PCUKONLINE) remains the online resource for British members.



U.K. Reviews (GO UKREVIEWS), included in basic services, is now online. Presented by Central Press Features, it offers entertainment reviews from a British perspective. Included in the weekly columns are U.K. Film Reviews, featuring reviews of the Top 10 films and new movies (GO UKFILMS); U.K. Theater Reviews, which reviews the Top 20 London theater shows and new shows (GO UKTHEATRE); U.K. Video Reviews, including reviews of the Top 10 retail and rental videos, plus new videos (GO UKVIDEO); U.K. Book Reviews, featuring reviews of the Top 10 paperback and hardback books and reviews of new books (GO UKBREV); and U.K. Soap Previews, a listing of soap operas on British TV (GO UKSOAPS). Once a title is no longer in the Top 10 listing, it remains within a historical database.

Mail-Order E-mail: Getting on an Internet List

If you want to venture out on the information highway while it's still under construction, one way is to subscribe to an Internet mailing list through the CompuServe Mail (GO MAIL) gateway.

Mailing lists are discussions on topics so varied and numerous that no master "list of lists" even exists. Once you find a list of interest, however, subscribe using this command, inserting the name of the particular mailing list in place of LISTNAME and your first and last name in place of YOUR NAME:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME
YOUR NAME

Mail this to the LISTSERV controlling the mailing list using this address:

>INTERNET:LISTSERV@
LIST.ADDRESS

The only catch is that the mailing list messages can rapidly overflow your CompuServe

Mail box with 100 or more postings a day. Use the LISTSERV DIGEST feature to change your mailing list's mode of operation so that it collects all of the messages received in a day and sends them as one message to your CompuServe Mail box. To do this, send this command to the LISTSERV to which you have subscribed, inserting the name of your mailing list in place of LISTNAME:

SET LISTNAME MAIL DIGEST

Be sure to send the command to the LISTSERV and not the mailing list, using the address you used when you initially subscribed to the list:

>INTERNET:LISTSERV@
LIST.ADDRESS

To cancel a mailing list subscription send this command to the LISTSERV, inserting the name of the particular mailing list in place of LISTNAME and

your first and last name in place of YOUR NAME:

UNSUBSCRIBE LISTNAME
YOUR NAME

Send this to the LISTSERV, again using the address: >INTERNET:LISTSERV@LIST.ADDRESS

The LISTSERV, short for List Server, is the program used to manage the Internet's mailing lists and newsgroups and to control access to file archives. The LISTSERV automatically adds and removes your name to a list, sends the mailing to your CompuServe Mail box, and sends responses to everyone on the list.

For information about Internet mail surcharges, GO MAILHELP and choose Option 1, "CompuServe Mail Rates Overview." For more information about the Internet in general, consult the Internet Forum (GO INETFORUM).

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by Cathryn Conroy

Handiworks

With a design in mind
or a creative boost from computers,
crafters serenely follow their muses.

FEATURE

CM's Cover Story:
The Fun of Crafts:
Getting There



Gift Making, p.12



Going Pro, p.14



Crafts Forum Files, p.18

In this high-tech age, we prize the dispatch and precision of machines when it comes to making the things we need. Perhaps it is this mass-production mentality that gives handcrafted items special meaning today. Our ancestors made almost everything they owned; we make almost nothing.

This is not true for everyone, however. Members of the Crafts Forum (GO CRAFTS) carve out quiet time from their hectic lives to stitch, weave, cut stained glass or "turn" wooden bowls. For some, the pleasure of crafting lies in the beauty or utility of the finished product. But for others, it lies in the process of creating—they value the means more than the end. The latter group usually uses traditional methods and tools, while the former group is more likely to mix age-old techniques with modern-day technology.

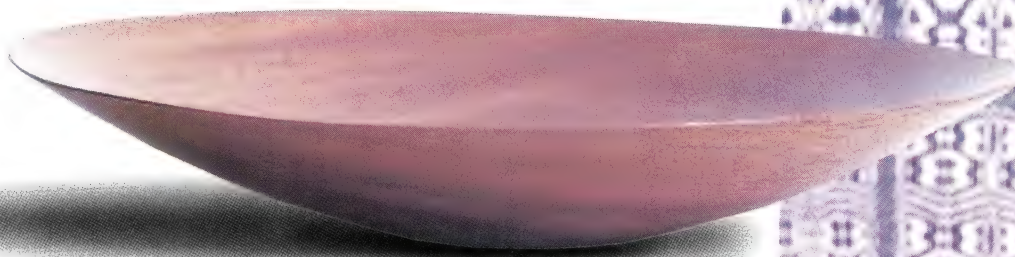
However, there is little conflict between the groups in the Crafts Forum, says Sysop

Susan Lazear. "Our members are obviously interested in computers. Where I do see the conflict is with computer-phobic craftspeople." At a recent craft show, for example, a fellow exhibitor told Lazear not to set up her computer. "He said people like to believe in the hand efforts of a craft, and the computer would destroy the image," she says. But many crafters are beginning to use computers as a design tool, adds Lazear. "It is faster than designing by hand, aiding crafters in a world that allows little leisure time."

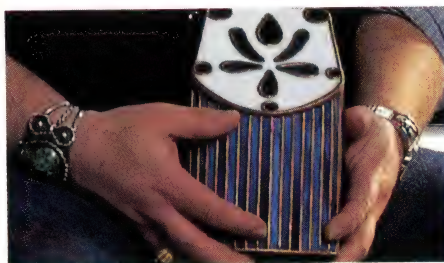
Using technology to assist in handcrafting isn't an idea of the 1990s. The Jacquard mechanism, developed around 1800, provided the first machine-assisted weaving. So it made sense that the advent of relatively inexpensive, easy-to-use personal computers would impact a number of crafts, especially those that rely on mathematical calculations (see "Computers—Woven into the Crafting Fabric," p.16).

Ginger Luters, co-section leader of the

Cathryn Conroy is senior writer of CompuServe Magazine and book review editor of Online Today. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.



Art





GARY REDFERN

Crafts Forum's Section 2, "Knitting and Crochet," created a way to knit sweaters that look like tapestries. She does most of her designing on a computer using one of two programs, Deluxe Paint or Stitch Painter. The software has made her much more creative and experimental, since she doesn't have to redraw each change by hand. The computer encourages her to take more risks and push her ideas further because it makes the designing work so much easier. The result is a richly colored sweater filled with the imagery of a medieval tapestry. She also shares information about new software and the latest knitting machines in the forum.

While Luters once felt constrained and controlled by printed sweater patterns, it took her years to realize she could create her own. It was when she began designing that she combined her artistic skills—drawing, painting, weaving and knitting.

She now knits garments both by hand and machine that are simple but elegant. "I love color, and it is one of the primary ele-

Pushes limitations of sweater design with high-tech help: Luters

ments in my designs. I also love pattern, usually geometric," she explains. Drawing on her interest in folk and ethnic art, Luters bases some of her knitting designs on American patchwork quilt patterns and woven Peruvian rugs.

Living in the mountains of northern California, Luters has turned her craft into a business: Ginger Luters Fiber Art. She spends her days designing patterns for yarn

companies, magazines and the garments she sells in shops and craft fairs. She also teaches local classes and national workshops and writes a bimonthly column for *Machine Knitters Source* magazine. Half of her sweaters are knitted by hand, and the rest by machine. An interface called the Bit Knitter, developed by Sysop Lazear, allows Luters to knit right from her computer. The Bit Knitter works like a modem,

FEATURE

Not Bought and Paid for: Making a Gift Yourself

Making a gift is a special way to tell someone how much you care. Handcrafting gifts is easy and fun with the proper planning. Crafts Forum members offer these tips:

The perfect gift begins with the perfect idea. First consider the occasion, be it a birthday, anniversary, wedding or holiday. Colors should be carefully selected with the recipient in mind.

Leatta Jackson, who creates counted cross-stitch designs, usually gets ideas for her gifts directly from the recipients, although few of them realize it. When her grandmother told her how much she missed her grandfather's rose garden, Jackson knew the perfect gift: a counted cross-stitch picture of roses.

Plan ahead. Once Ingrid Chamberlin, who works with rubber stamps, conceives of a gift idea, she assesses how much time she can give to the project. "I'm definitely going to put more effort into a rubber-stamped photo album of my grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary than for a birthday card for an acquaintance."

In addition, plan for the type of materials you will use in the project. Weaver Debbie Rindfleisch uses finer, more expensive yarns for wedding gifts, especially for items that will not receive daily use. Before she uses wool, she tries to find out if the recipient

is allergic to it.

Penny Shrawder, who makes stationery, notepads and bookmarks, always keeps supplies on hand for last-minute gifts when preparation time is limited.

Give yourself enough time to complete a project. Depending on the craft and the number of recipients, some crafters begin Christmas gifts as early as the previous spring. Betsy Marett creates gift tags decorated with original drawings. She works on the drawings year-round, then takes them to a printer for reduction, copying and printing near Christmastime.

If you're trying a new technique or craft, be sure to give yourself extra time and consider making a test piece first.

Make sure projects are age appropriate for children. "Kids get frustrated if a project is too complicated for them," says Chamberlin. For younger children, it's best if the gift can be completed in one afternoon.

Handcrafted gifts may not always cost less and they certainly take much time, but the effort is well worth it. Says Rindfleisch, "It's a true labor of love."

—CC

Starting Pointers on Tools, Space and a First Effort

When DMC, one of the world's largest manufacturers of threads, discontinued Kathy Sheldrake's favorite shade of crochet cotton, she decided to learn how to dye thread herself.

Searching advertisements in *Threads* magazine, the Bellevue, Nebraska, resident located a source for dye, collected some old plastic containers, donned rubber gloves and started creating colors. "Sometimes it seems that rather than you choosing a craft, it chooses you," quips Sheldrake, whose thread dyeing led her to purchase a spindle and wheel so she could spin her own thread.

"People choose a craft based on necessity, circumstance, or a fascination with a medium or technique," says Crafts Forum member Jan Hamby, a Burke, Virginia-based master of many crafts, including embroidery, quilting, tatting and miniatures.

She identifies the most important factors to consider when starting a new craft as expenses for equipment and materials, the resources you have for learning the craft, your personal skills and the space you have available for working.

Purchasing the proper tools is essential for success, but you don't have to spend a fortune on the very best materials available. "The extra pressure caused by spending a lot will increase your expectations, and if the results don't measure up, your disappointment may stifle any further attempts," warns Hamby.

Sheldrake once purchased an expensive quilting hoop only to discover she hated hand quilting. "It sat for over a year before I finally sold it at a loss because I couldn't stand looking at it

anymore," she admits.

Forum members and local craft store owners often can suggest alternative, less expensive materials. "Find out what supplies are absolutely necessary and which are helpful but not required," advises forum member Lisa Trumble.

To get started, look for beginners' classes offered through craft stores, recreational organizations, schools, libraries and community colleges. Although it is a little more difficult, you also can learn new crafts through books and specialized magazines.

Interactive resources often can make the difference between success and failure for novices. "You need someplace to take problems and questions, someone who will help you through the rough spots or suggest things you may not have thought of," Sheldrake says.

Assess your personal skills and choose a first project that isn't too large or complicated. This will lower potential frustration and bring quick results. "Realize you're a beginner and don't expect perfection in your first piece," says Sheldrake.

Finally, make sure you have proper working space. "Don't expect super results if you try to take up woodworking in the laundry room, and counted cross-stitch is miserable without good lighting," warns Hamby.

If you plan well, starting a new craft can be the most fun of all.

—CC

serving as an interface between the computer and the electronic knitting machine. She makes the design on the computer, and it is sent instantly to the machine via the Bit Knitter.

But for Luters, knitting is just the tool or medium for expressing her ideas. "I could work with paint or glass, but fibers seem to call to me. I like the idea that people wear and enjoy what I have created. They respond to my creation, and it creates a connection between us."

Similarly, Sigrid Piroch, a professional textile artist who provides product support for Schacht Spindle Company and the Electric Quilt Company in the Crafts Forum, uses computers to enhance the patterns she weaves. This member of the high-tech age takes special pride in using traditional weaving techniques yet pushing them to the limits with experimentation. Using computers as a design tool and a computer-assisted handloom, she allows the computer to control the combination of threads and how they are woven, while she concentrates on the beauty and quality of the cloth, rather than on the mechanics of the weaving.

Her four IBM PC-compatibles and two Macintosh computers all connect to the computer-assisted loom with a Loom Interface Port Standard. "The computer-assisted loom makes possible some weaving that is all but impossible with a traditional non-interfaced loom," she says, because it allows

infinitely more combinations than the traditional loom. For instance, a standard loom allows 10 weaving combinations. Add a computer and there are 254 combinations. Large looms assisted by a computer can produce 300,000 combinations. "Not only has the

computer made it possible for almost anyone to weave, but this new design tool also has stretched our imaginations in new ways," Piroch says.

She has striven to improve her patterns since she first found her craft when she was



'Turns' raw wood into handcrafted wonders for pleasure, not money: Turley

AVIS MANDEL

Going Pro: Tips for Crafty Business

If you want to make the transition from hobbyist to professional, there is one more "craft" to master: marketing.

Crafts Forum members Susanne Clawson of Clawson/Fiberations in Tallahassee, Florida, and Rebecca Roos of de la Tour designs in Benicia, California, offer these tips for turning pro:

Be professional. Think like a businessperson and not like an amateur. Your first task is to order business cards and letterhead, says Clawson, a paper sculpture artist. Once your business is established, she advises publishing a well-designed flyer or brochure to distribute at shows or through targeted mailings.

Identify your audience or market. Figure out who is likely to buy your work, for example, individuals who attend craft fairs or corporations that might commission your art. "The more you know about your potential customers, the better your chances of getting their business and keeping it," says Roos, a needlework designer who produces charts of Victorian, romantic and nostalgic images.

Advertising. This is an effective way to generate business, but it must be budgeted, well-timed and created to achieve the best possible results. It's best to start small. "Plan your advertising. Don't just fly by the seat of your pants and expect a safe landing," warns Roos, who relies solely on targeted advertising in needlework magazines to sell her charts.

To research traditional advertising media, ask for media kits from magazines, newspapers, and radio and television stations. "Consider what advertising you can afford. Figure out how many widgets you must sell to get your money back out of the ad and make a profit, then weigh the value of each ad," advises Roos, who has made money on every ad she has run by choosing magazines whose readers match a profile of her average customer, which she has learned is more important than circulation figures.

Sell to corporations. Depending on the type of craft, one lucrative market is the corporate world. Clawson has marketed her paper sculpture art to a number of big customers, including IBM Corp. and the State of Florida.

Although she credits much of her success to being in the right place at the right time, Clawson suggests sending targeted mailings to architects and interior designers at top firms.

Enter art fairs. Weekend art and craft fairs abound and are filled with customers who come to buy handcrafted wares. Clawson admits they are hard work but says they do result in sales. While you're there, share ideas and ask questions of other crafters.

To find out about upcoming fairs, check the advertisements in various crafts business journals, including *Sunshine Artist* and *The Crafts Report*. (*The Crafts Report* can be reached online via CompuServe Mail at User ID number 71117,3311.) Entrants are accepted to fairs based on written applications and slides of their work. Deadlines are six to eight months prior to a fair. Most require two fees—one for the application and one for the booth. If you're not accepted, the booth fee is returned.

Give excellent customer service. Be polite and appreciative of your customers. "Always thank people for their business," says Roos, who fills orders within 24 hours and writes personalized thank-you notes to everyone who orders a catalog. She also encourages customer comments. When a suggestion is incorporated, she writes the customer who offered it.

Keep records. Track each advertisement's effectiveness by the response it generates. Roos keeps a record of her customers' names and addresses, including the dates catalogs were ordered and purchases made.

—CC

3 years old and her great aunt taught her to crochet. Six years later, Piroch tagged along with her father, a symphony conductor, and composer Ernest Bloch as they walked on a beach one day. Bloch picked up stone, turned to her and said, "Look at this rock. No one has ever seen these patterns before." He told her that when he was starved for inspiration, he walked on the beach, picking up rocks to find patterns for his music.

"I put these two things together that my great aunt and Ernest Bloch showed me: textiles and patterns," says Piroch, who now creates designer fabrics, miniatures, household textiles and art weaving. In a few minutes on the beach, something happened that changed her. "Ever since, I've felt a confidence that I can find a simple key to unlock any technique, no matter how complicated, to create wondrous things with yarn."

Working at her craft full-time since 1976, Piroch begins the weaving process with fiber, secured from area sheep growers, which she spins into thread. At times, she also uses store-bought, natural-fiber weaving yarns, such as cotton, wool, linen, silk and cashmere. Using a loom, she crosses the threads, weaving them into fine cloth that ranges from 30 to 150 threads per inch. The finer the cloth, the more time required to make it.

She works with five large looms and many small ones, ranging in age from one constructed in 1800 to a computer-assisted

loom made in 1980. Six spinning wheels, varying in size from 6 inches to 6 feet, also are used in a studio that extends throughout her Meadville, Pennsylvania, home. She purchased some of her looms and spinning wheels from antique stores and the others from ads in weaving and spinning magazines, such as *Weavers* and *SpinOff*.

Beginning work early in the day and continuing late into the evening, Piroch sleeps little and almost never watches television. She rarely sells her work, preferring instead to exhibit and use it as a teaching tool in the classes and seminars she conducts worldwide.

A woodworker hobbyist for 45 years, Jack Turley, a Chicago-based architect and leader of the Crafts Forum's Woodworking section, also refuses to sell his work, preferring to keep his craft a hobby and not a profession. Turley displays handcrafted wooden bowls in his home, but he pursues the craft for the process. "I am constantly trying to better the form," he says. When he does improve the form, he destroys the inferior bowls—a practice that outrages his family.

Turley believes the drive to create is part of the human psyche. "People don't turn to a craft consciously to get pleasure. They design and make things because they are driven to it," he says.

For Turley, that creative drive surfaced in

1949 when he was an architecture student working in the offices of the renowned architect Mies Van Der Rohe. Also working there was a mechanical engineer named James Prestini, who created a sensation with hand-made wooden bowls.

Turley wanted one of those bowls, but the cost was \$25, a fortune beyond his meager means. He decided to make his own. "I set

out to duplicate the fragile structure on an abandoned lathe in the basement of an apartment house where I lived. It started a fascination with woodturning that continues apace with furniture design," he explains.

Turley still mostly turns bowls, although he makes some furniture for himself and family members. He spends as many mornings and evenings as he is able in a well-equipped shop in the basement of his century-old home.

To turn a bowl, Turley fastens a block of wood to a rotating lathe. He uses cutting tools to shape the wood as it turns, shaving it until it reaches the shape envisioned. He often uses wood scraps discarded by others but also buys wood imported from around the world, including rosewood, teak and ebony. The cost of the wood varies from nothing to several hundred dollars, and the finished products range in size from miniatures to bowls large enough for a child to hide in. He

FEATURE



TOM HOGAN

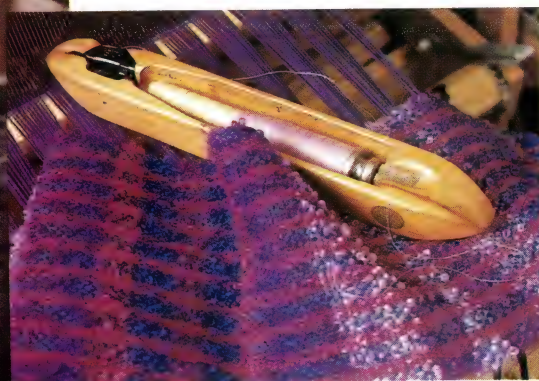
Computer-assisted loom makes for innovative weaving: Piroch

turns simple bowls in just 30 minutes, but more complex designs may take several hours to a few days.

In much the same way, Gerry Phibbs, leader of the Crafts Forum's Section 9, "Glass/Clay/Ceramics," and Section 12, "All Other Crafts," derives great satisfaction from the process of crafting with glass. Phibbs, a stained-glass artist who doubles as general manager of a large retail hardware store, has been working with glass for more than 20 years. "I've worked in many other media, yet I keep coming back to glass for the possibilities that lie within each sheet," he says.

Glass can be worked glowing hot on a blowpipe to create vessels and sculptured objects. It can be fused, formed, painted and shaped in a kiln. It can be etched, carved or blasted to add various design elements to the finished work.

Although Phibbs has never blown glass, he has worked with it in almost every other way. He has created windows, lamp shades, fireplace



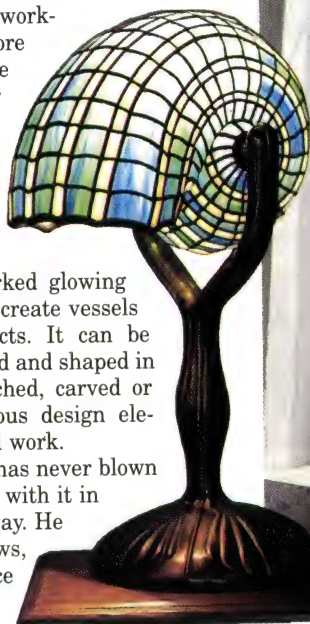
hang in front of windows, these framed panels are typically 2 feet square or circles 3 to 4 feet in diameter.

Most of his work is created from large sheets of colored glass he purchases from wholesale outlets for as much as several hundred dollars each. Once he even used beer bottles. To make a panel, Phibbs hand cuts small pieces of glass from the larger sheets, grounds the pieces and fits them together. They are fastened using a copper foil technique originally developed by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Creating these designs is one of the most fulfilling aspects of his craft, which he does mostly in the evenings after work and on the weekends in a garage-turned-studio in his Glendale, California, home. The studio is filled with saws, glass grinders, a sandblasting rig, woodworking equipment, a light table and a large work area.

Over the years Phibbs has come to realize that his inborn ability to "see" a design in his mind is uncommon. "I think there is truth to

screens and small boxes, but he most enjoys creating large autonomous panels of multi-colored glass of his own designs. Made to



DAVID SESSIONS

From pieces to panels, stained-glass artist fulfills vision: Phibbs

Computers—Woven into the Crafting Fabric

Although most crafts draw on the same techniques practiced by artisans centuries ago, computers have had a marked impact on virtually every craft from cross-stitch to weaving.

Especially useful to crafters is software that allows even those with limited artistic ability to design professional-quality patterns and charts. Some use software to create original designs, while others use it to modify or recolor existing designs.

"Computers take away the fear of design, allowing people to tackle more difficult projects," says Susan Lazear, sysop of the Crafts Forum and the developer of several computerized craft aids, including the Bit Knitter, which links the computer to an electronic knitting machine.

"With the computer, I can design a complicated sweater in which the design is engineered into the shape. This sometimes can be done in less than 20 minutes," she explains. "If I had to do it by hand, it would take me at least two to three days to complete. So my designs have become larger and more intricate, and they take less time to generate."

Because they allow numerous changes to be made easily, computers are improving the quality of designs. Since they are just another designing tool, Lazear insists that computers don't diminish an item's handcrafted appeal. "Using a computer is no different than using an electric saw. One could do it by hand, but why?"

Chris O'Donnell, the author of a shareware cross-stitch design program (file GIFXTS.EXE in Library 5, "Stitchery & Lace"), says, "Computers open up a whole new world of sources for patterns and designs." She has found help online for a cross-stitched dinosaur quilt she is making for her children. "Rather than running around town trying to find a dinosaur chart, I'll locate a GIF image of a dinosaur and, using my program, transform the GIF into a cross-stitch chart."

Computers can be used for more than design. Kathy Morgret, assistant sysop of the Crafts Forum, says software is available for many tasks, including calculating weave drafts, pottery glazes and gauges for tatting, as well as inventory programs for tracking embroidery floss or patterns.

Perhaps more than any other craft, weaving has benefited from high-technology. Since so much of weaving is highly mathematical, programmers have been writing calculation software for weavers for many years. In addition, weavers can use software to create a design, while the computer drives the loom, transforming the bits and bytes of data into an actual woven textile.

The Crafts Forum libraries are packed with crafts software, and Library 16, "Tech Support/Beta," has become a primary beta-testing site for the crafts industry.

—CC

the idea of it being a gift," he says. "But this gift transcends all expressions of the vision for it's at the root of one's being."

Design ideas come to him from sensory stimuli, such as flowers, the sight of a seagull or a passage of music. Sometimes ideas come from the color or vibrancy of the glass itself. "But more often than not, the idea just comes to me as an image in my mind," he says.

Phibbs once tried to make his living through his stained-glass work but found it difficult to make enough sales to support himself. He occasionally sells pieces at prices ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars, although he admits that he gives away as much as he sells. More important than money, the craft gives Phibbs his identity. He takes great pride in the panels, boxes and

lamps he creates, some of which take more than a year to complete.

Although he has enjoyed much success and personal satisfaction, Phibbs admits that there is almost as much frustration in his craft. Learning to deal with this has been as important as learning how to use a glass cutter. Phibbs recalls a time early in his stained-glass work when he scraped together what little money he had to purchase a full sheet of deep purple, handmade European glass. As he was taking the glass to his van, it got caught on the corner of the bumper and shattered. Phibbs picked up the pieces and comforted himself with the thought that he was going to cut it up into smaller pieces anyway. "If I was going to get upset at glass breaking, then I was in the wrong discipline," he says. "I came to the realization that my work was about making bigger things out of the smaller pieces."

Handcrafting is about many things, however. For Crafts Forum member Beverly Marchetti, the mother of five boys and a former schoolteacher, it is a means of relaxation and creative expression. While raising her children, Marchetti turned to counted cross-stitching, which provided an inner calm and peace from the hectic days of nursery schools, carpools and baseball games. It also provided lovely home decorations and a way to challenge her with new techniques, color ideas and design concepts.

Marchetti began counted cross-stitching more than 35 years ago when a friend returned from a trip to Copenhagen with



A cross-stitch away from peace and creative expression: Marchetti

samples of the handiwork. It is one part of the family of "counted" embroideries that requires its stitches be taken at the intersections of countable threads. The design is not printed on the fabric; instead, the stitcher duplicates on a blank piece of cloth with embroidery floss a design drawn on graph paper. Most counted cross-stitchers do not design, but they sometimes add their own personal touches to others' work.

Marchetti makes no apologies for cross-stitching others' designs. "Musicians don't feel less worthy because they don't write music," she notes. "My true love is counted work. I am fascinated by the orderliness and flow of it, by its lovely internal logic. When you set up the restriction that the stitches must fit a certain mathematical order, you don't limit any other aspect of the work."

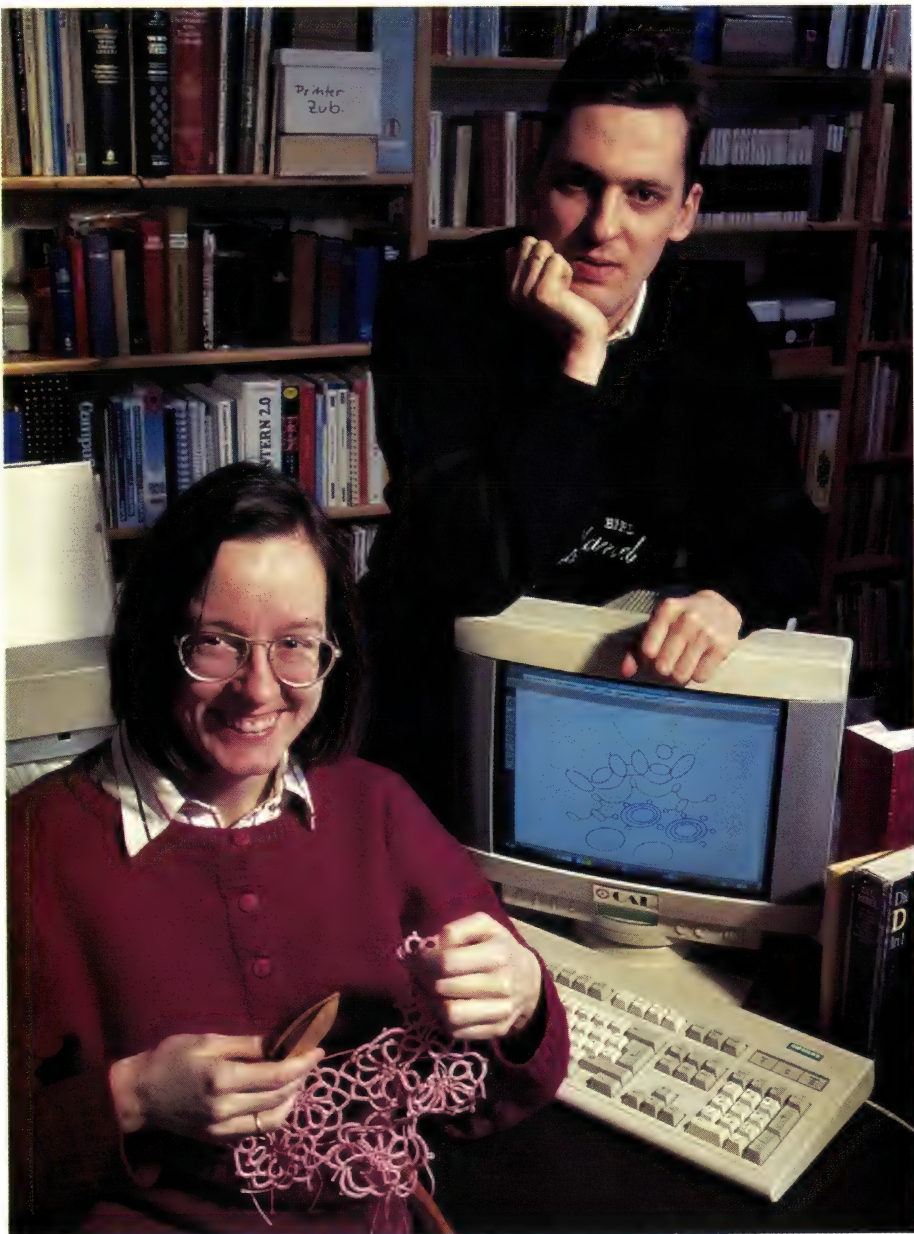
The Dallas, Pennsylvania, resident prefers creating items that will be used, such as placemats, napkins, tablecloths, pillows and Christmas tree ornaments, rather than framed wall hangings. "I'm most interested in creating things that have purpose," she explains. "I believe embroidery should be used." The designs she chooses vary and have included religious crosses, early American samplers and geometric patterns.

Now sixtysomething, Marchetti treasures her counted cross-stitch work more than ever. "I know I have a craft and an art that fill my heart," she says.

Christiane Eichler of Cologne, Germany, also finds relaxation in a craft. She taught herself how to tat—lacemaking using a wooden shuttle to create knots in rings and chains—as a way to unwind after a long day.

Tatting is not easily learned from written instructions and pictures in books, but Eichler managed to master it in just this way. Until she became a member of the Crafts Forum, Eichler had never tried this craft or met anyone else who did it. It was because of the encouragement of members in Section 5, "Stitchery and Lace," that she pounded the streets of Cologne looking for a tatting shuttle and dug up books on tatting in the library.

Dubbed "poor man's lace," tatting is a portable and inexpensive craft; all of the supplies can fit easily into a small pocket. Shuttles, which are used to make knots from threads of varying widths, are made of plastic or wood. They are 2 to 4 inches long and usually have a hook or spike at one end to join parts of the design together. Eichler usually uses crochet cotton for tatting, but she sometimes makes designs in pearl cotton, knitting cotton, linen and even sewing thread. For patterns rich in design, she tends to tat in white, while simpler patterns are



MATTHIAS WOLTMANN

Started crafting 'poor man's lace' thanks to Crafts Forum members: Eichler with husband Ralf

enriched with vibrant colors. Eichler's recent tatting projects include a table cover in pink knitting cotton, doilies, Christmas tree ornaments, collars and bookmarks. She even uses a small tatted flower as an accent on her calling card.

"Forum members helped me to overcome my first frustrations by sharing their experiences and many tips," she says. "They encouraged me to go on designing patterns by commenting favorably on my first attempts, and they even made me investigate the German Lace Guild, where I'm now a member. So I owe most of my motivation and my real beginning with tatting to the Crafts Forum."

Working by day as a translator of Christian books for a small German publishing house, Eichler's tatting reflects her faith. She enjoys designing symbolic Christian numbers in her tatting patterns. A seven-topped snowflake she designed reflects the number seven, a Biblical symbol of perfec-

tion. The center of the snowflake ring has seven times six knots, symbolic of Jesus Christ, who was God (7) and man (6)—a symbol of imperfection.

No matter how expert she becomes at tatting, Eichler believes there is always more that can be learned, techniques that can be perfected. "The most important process of learning is collecting information," says Eichler, who still reads everything she can find on tatting. An avid pattern designer, she forces herself to learn new techniques by including them in her designs and continues to gather and share information in the Crafts Forum.

More so, Eichler's tatting provides her day-to-day life with stability and special meaning inherent to handcrafting trades. "Tatting is something I can do that does not vanish in a quarter of an hour—like the cooking and cleaning," she says. "I need to do things that stay."

FEATURE

Relaxing Resources: Crafts Forum's Favorite Files

The Crafts Forum (GO CRAFTS) offers a number of specialized resources for hobbyist and professional crafters. Here's a sampling of the nearly 1,700 library files that include shareware, software demos, utilities, GIF images, resource databases for each craft (search in the appropriate library using the keyword RESOURCES), forum conference transcripts and magazine article reprints. Search for other files of interest using the name of the craft as a keyword.

In addition, message board sections correspond to the library numbers listed below and offer current discussion on these topics.

LIBRARY 1, 'HELP RESOURCES'

Making Money from Crafts—Conference transcript on how to price and sell your product. JAN92.CON (16,238 bytes).

U.S. Festivals—List of 1994 dates and places for creative festivals in the United States. CFEST.TXT (2,561 bytes).

Forum Intro—Description of the Crafts Forum; text adapted from the Crafts Forum brochure distributed at craft shows. CRAFTS.TXT (6,649 bytes).

LIBRARY 2, 'KNITTING & CROCHET'

Knit a Tam—Knit a hat using this quick tam pattern. TAM.TIP (3,527 bytes).

Textile Drawing Program—Color Knit Version 3.0 for the Macintosh helps textile artists develop patterns. Shareware, \$15. COLKNT.SEA (84,096 bytes).

Necklace—Instructions for crocheting a beaded necklace. BEADCR.TIP (3,154 bytes).

LIBRARY 3, 'SPINNING'

Spinning Flax—Short text file on flax types and spinning preparation, techniques and hints. FLAX.THd (8,318 bytes).

Linen Tote—Instructions for knitting a linen tote bag using handspun flax. LINENB.TXT (3,502 bytes).

How Much?—Discussion of ways to estimate amount of fiber needed to spin sufficient yarn for your knitting projects. FIBEST.TIP (3,371 bytes).

LIBRARY 4, 'WEAVING'

Armchair Weaving—WeaveView Version 0.991 helps set up a weave with traditional drafts, multiple colors and varying warp/weft sizes. WEAVIE.EXE (95,258 bytes).

Triangular Weaving—Discussion on triangular weaving on floor looms with information on building and using triangular looms for weaving shawls. TRIANG.THd (10,745 bytes).

Colors in Weaving—Conference transcript on use of color in fabric design. NO1393.CON (22,266 bytes).

LIBRARY 5, 'STITCHERY & LACE'

Learn to Tat—Informative tutorial by forum member Lisa Trumble on how to tat. TATLSN.THd (29,891 bytes).

GIF to Cross-Stitch—GIF2XTS Version 4.3 converts GIF images to counted cross-stitch charts. Shareware, \$25. GIFXTS.EXE (238,988 bytes).

Software for Floss Inventory—CrossMagic, a database for cross-stitchers, maintains a floss inventory of DMC and Anchor colors. Shareware, \$30. XMAGIC.ZIP (344,414 bytes).

LIBRARY 6, 'SEWING'

Pattern Drafting Software—List of available pattern-drafting software programs. PDSCA.TIP (3,295 bytes).

Battenberg Lace—Tips on making Battenberg lace from a serger chain. BATBRG.THd (3,849 bytes).

Sewing Magazines—Listing of sewing magazines sorted by specialty and title. MAG_6.TXT (6,168 bytes).

LIBRARY 7, 'QUILTING'

Making Appliqués—Clever technique for using freezer paper to make templates for quilting appliqués. FREEZR.THd (4,480 bytes).

Organizing Fabric—Lively discussion on how to keep your fabric organized, sorted, ironed, washed and protected from deterioration. STASH.THd (34,944 bytes).

Photo Quilting—Instructions on how to transfer photographs onto quilting fabric. PHOTOQ.TXT (545 bytes).

LIBRARY 8, 'PAPER & STAMPING'

Rubber Stamping Techniques—Discussion on stamping techniques, including embossing and masking. STAMP.THd (66,705 bytes).

Make a Starbook—Instructions and 30 illustrations for making a starbook, including an illustration of the book standing open. STARBK.TXT (31,829 bytes) and STARBK.ZIP (125,669 bytes).

Antique Paper—Instructions for giving paper an antique look with a deckle edge. ANQPAP.TIP (800 bytes).

LIBRARY 9, 'GLASS/CLAY/CERAMICS'

Make a Mosaic—Simple introduction for creating a stained-glass mosaic. MOSAIC.TXT (14,206 bytes).

The New Clay—Techniques for using new polyform clays, including FIMO, Sculpey, Cernit and related products. NEWCLA.THd (51,851 bytes).

Glaze Batching Demo—EX Glaze 1.1c is a working demo that provides four ways to develop a new glaze and features glaze analysis tools and unlimited memo/notes. GLAZE2.EXE (376,832 bytes).

LIBRARY 11, 'WOODWORKING'

Restoring Finishes—An *American Woodworker* magazine article on restoring furniture finishes, including for antiques. RESTOR.TXT (17,343 bytes).

Wood Facts—Compilation of information about the properties of various woods. WOODFA.TXT (13,495 bytes).

Selecting the Grain—An *American Woodworker* magazine article on selecting the grain of each piece of wood to enhance the overall appearance of a project. WDFIG.TXT (15,231 bytes).

LIBRARY 12, 'ALL OTHER CRAFTS'

Basketmaking—Online basketmaking class taught by Larry Burditt; includes questions from participants with answers from the instructor. BCLASS.THd (11,359 bytes).

Framing—Various sources and techniques for building wood picture frames. FRAME.ZIP (62,411 bytes).

Rug Hooking—Discussion on various rug hooking techniques. RUGHK.THd (35,520 bytes).

LIBRARY 13, 'FOCUS: SEASONAL'

Christmas Tree Ornaments—Recipes and instructions for making cinnamon/applesauce Christmas tree ornaments. CINN.THd (3,733 bytes).

Clothespin Reindeer—Instructions for making tiny reindeer from old-fashioned clothespins. TREIN.TIP (1,495 bytes).

Quilted Stockings—Instructions for making quilted Christmas stockings. QXMAS.TIP (6,319 bytes).

LIBRARY 15, 'MINIATURES'

Miniature Windsocks—Instructions for making miniature windsocks from ribbon. WINDSK.TIP (8,789 bytes).

Christmas Candles—Tips on making miniature candles for a miniature Christmas tree. CANDLE.TIP (3,880 bytes).

Miniatures—Lists of museums with miniature displays. MUSEUM.TXT (4,578 bytes).

LIBRARY 17, 'BUSINESS & TRADES'

Craft Business Manager—CrafTracker 1.6 is a simplified system for sole proprietors of small businesses to track sales, expenses, accounts receivable and payable, inventory and more. Shareware, \$25. CRAFTR.ZIP (260,751 bytes).

Wholesale Marketing—Conference transcript on ideas for wholesale marketing of crafts. FEB94C.CON (74,784 bytes).

Publications—List of magazines and directories related to various crafts businesses. BUSPUB.TXT (6,635 bytes).

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dj 30 Dow Jones Avg					0	3,929.390	3,892.530	3,894.500 -11.820		
dow Dow Chemical	58.000	50.000	55.000	70.000	1875	63.875	63.375	63.750 0.250	\$3,187.50	\$287.50
gm General Motors	42.000	150.000			18883	64.250	63.375	63.750 0.750	\$9,562.50	\$3,262.50
ibm IBM	44.000	100.000	48.000		10020	54.750	53.750	53.750 -0.500	\$5,375.00	\$975.00
nyt a New York Times -A	22.000	100.000			188	27.250	26.500	26.625 -0.500	\$2,662.50	\$462.50
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tednx Templeton Dev Market	12.000	524.125			0	0.000	0.000	15.550 0.000	\$8,150.14	\$1,860.64
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Reuters - Apple Computer Inc.

By Russell Blitch
 San Francisco, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Apple Computer Inc. is expected to unveil its long awaited line of computers based on the speedy PowerPC chip next month, analysts and company sources said.

The March unveiling would be much earlier than expected and the speculation was helping to spark a sharp rally in Apple, which has suffered recently on the stock market.

"If the PowerPC could help them win incremental market share," said Roubert & Quist analyst Bruce Lopatkin, "it's enough to warrant buying Apple."

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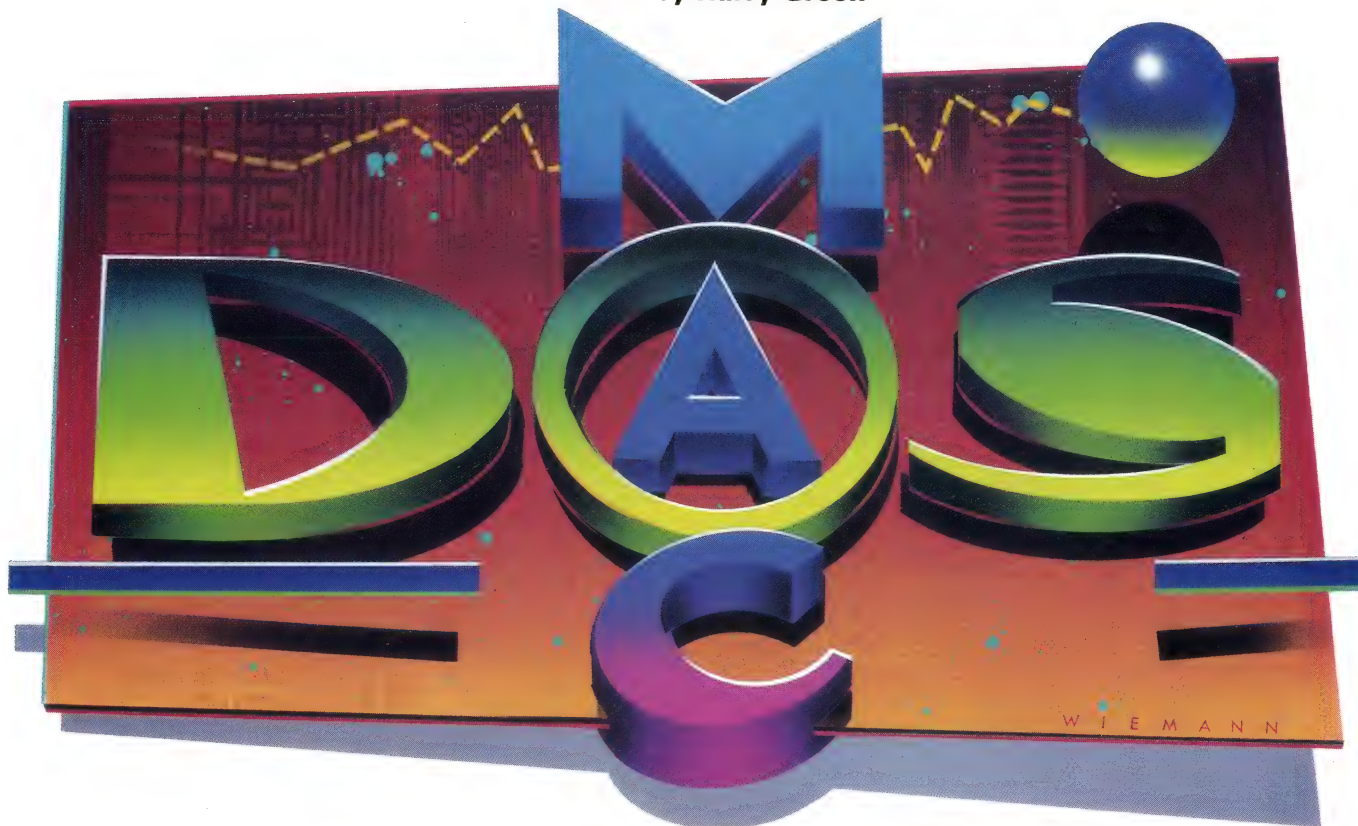
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Linking Uploads, p.22

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► **Transferring data files from one platform to the other is now more necessary and possible.**

Uh-oh. You've got a Macintosh at home and an IBM PC at the office, and you would like to bring home a DOS-formatted disk and get some work done. Or perhaps you keep a PC in the den, and your daughter wants to finish the book report she started on the Macs at her school. What do you do?

From the earliest days of computing, incompatible file formats have been the bane of system administrators and others who reach the edge of the moat separating the two dominant operating systems: MS-DOS and Apple's Macintosh operating system. Yet, unlike what many users think or fear, "crossing platforms is not so difficult, depending on what you hope to achieve," says PR and Marketing Forum member Michael Wahlster, who routinely exchanges his DOS-based files with Mac-using clients in his Pullman, Washington, language translation business. With more and more hardware and software conversion solutions on the market, exchanging files from DOS and Mac systems is getting easier all the time.

A few years ago, applications tended to be

specialized on either Macintosh or DOS, so the need to move files between them was rare. Now experts estimate that as many as 25 percent of offices use both platforms, so files inevitably must be shared.

Danny Sullivan, a newspaper reporter for the *Orange County Register* in Santa Ana, California, has moved image, illustration, spreadsheet and other kinds of files between Mac and DOS machines for several years using Apple's FileExchange, a utility bundled with Macintosh's System 6 and System 7 operating systems. "People believe that you need to both translate a data file and convert it to Mac or DOS format," says Sullivan, a member of the Journalism Forum. "But a file saved in Excel 4.0 format under Windows can be read effortlessly by Excel 4.0 on the Mac. The only step needed is to get the file changed from DOS to Macintosh format."

As Sullivan points out, the answer to file transfer lies on two levels. The first is connectivity: transporting the data between the two platforms. The second is translation: how to use the data in the target platform with a minimum of formatting loss.

Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Oregon, firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

Sharing Moments with Palmtops and PCs

You've seen them: terribly efficient-looking people in airports, restaurants and building lobbies touch-typing or scribbling away on something way too small to hold a proper keyboard and too much like a TV remote control to be just a scratch pad. The devices are personal organizers/digital assistants/communicators, and they do everything from storing phone numbers to running DOS and spreadsheets.

While they are increasingly indispensable to the mobile manager, one cannot live by organizer alone. The key to efficiency has become keeping one's pocket organizer in sync with one's larger (and easier-to-type-on) desktop PC. Owners of the Sharp Wizards, HP 100LXs, Psion Series 3s and Apple Newtons of the computing world often must transmit data and files between the two, and as a result, communications capabilities have improved.

Some organizers, such as those by Hewlett-Packard, permit wireless infrared exchange of data. But most palmtop users today have to be content with serial-type file transfers. Consumer Electronics Forum member Tony McNamara, a programmer in Santa Monica, California, uses a Hewlett-Packard 100LX palmtop computer, on which he keeps a database of everyone he knows, a shopping list, an inventory of possessions for insurance purposes and a list of his compact discs so he doesn't buy the same one twice. All except for the shopping list come from the desktop. "All of the data entry was done on my desktop systems, with their more legible screens and full-sized keyboards," he says. "I use Rupp's FastLynx and an HP100LX serial cable to move data back and forth at lightning speed."

Dick Walter, a member of the Palmtop Forum and a Cincinnati, Ohio-based management consultant who helps businesses implement total quality management systems maintains client and marketing lists in a PC and downloads them to his Sharp Wizard. "I've found the Wizard to be a useful tool for keeping the informa-

tion I need from my office system at my fingertips," he says. He uses Sharp's Organizer Link and Intellilink to make the data transfers. "It still requires some knowledge of computers to make it all work, so I don't feel it is for the casual user. But the results are well worth the effort."

Another class of handheld computers is the personal digital organizer, such as the Apple Newton and the Tandy Zoomer Personal Digital Assistant. Gadget fan Dean Alban, owner of an audio-visual communications company with offices in Baltimore and Philadelphia, graduated to the latter from an Atari Portfolio. "I used it as a contact manager and phone dialer. I bought the serial port kit and software to use my IBM PC-XT as the Portfolio's backup system," Alban says, noting that the XT-bound data became needed only for the occasional letter.

Upon receiving the Tandy, Alban learned its handwriting recognition quirks by entering more than 200 address entries via its "ink" mode, which also has become his means of data transferral to the XT. "I keep all my notes in 'ink' and transfer them using the PalmConnect program," he says. "That turns my desktop into a carbon copy of my Zoomer. While viewing the 'ink' pages, the software allows the data to be keyed in using the keyboard." Half the fun of maintaining contact data this way is letting business associates try writing in their own numbers on the device, adds Alban. "On a trip to London, the Zoomer was quite the conversational ice-breaker after meetings."

If you need assistance in transferring between your organizer and desktop computer, help is available in the Palmtop Forum (GO PALMTOP) or product-specific forums for Hewlett-Packard (GO HP) and Apple Newton (GO NEWTON) devices. There, members exchange tips and offer suggestions specific to most of the popular combinations.

—HG

Barriers to IBM-Mac Transfers

The transfer process often begins at the diskette itself. Macintoshes have used 3.5-inch disks from the start, but those manufactured before 1988 used 400K and 800K formats versus 720K for DOS systems of the same era. If your Mac was manufactured after 1988, it includes a 1.44MB SuperDrive. Coupled with FileExchange, the Mac reads, writes and formats 720K and 1.44MB disks. Users with older Macintoshes still have options, however.

Larry Dailey, a member of the Macintosh Communications Forum from Columbus, Georgia, describes his solution: "Since my Plus doesn't have a SuperDrive, I can't just swap disks to get my files from one machine to the other. I use a Coactive Connector, a simple device that lets the PC speak Appletalk." Before he got the connector, he used another, less satisfactory method: connecting the two machines' serial ports.

Another barrier can be the differences in file naming and structure. Mac file names can be 31 characters long, compared to the eight-plus-three format of DOS machines. This is the biggest problem Sullivan has found because long file names will be shortened to 11 characters when a file is transferred from a Mac to a PC. He suggests keeping file names to eight characters on the Mac if you have to move the files frequently.

The problem is compounded further by the fact that Mac files carry built-in information about the file type and the application that created it, but DOS files do not. So, if you're transferring DOS files to a Mac, the transfer program must guess at the file type based on the file name's extension. Most DOS applications choose a unique file extension, but nothing stops users from renaming a file (and its extension), which can confuse a conversion program.

Another potential barrier is differences between the ASCII code set used by DOS and Macs. DOS uses 128 characters of the code set and leaves it up to the application to define the other 128. Macs, on the other hand, define all 256 characters. Wahlster encounters this problem with foreign language translations. He has found that in translating from German he may lose characters if he doesn't check carefully.

The problem can get thornier if you're transferring graphics. "In dealing with porting image files between these two systems, there's an added issue of using file types that are acceptable on both platforms," says Steve Rimmer, president of Alchemy Mindworks Inc., which produces the bitmap conversion and manipulation package Graphic Workshop. "The TIFF and GIF formats port fairly cleanly. Other formats, such as PCX, are exclusive to one platform and will be awk-

ward to use on the other."

And because Mac files are stored in two sections, a structured-data and code "resource" fork and a "data" fork, image files coming over to a PC need to have their type and creator files manually set. "Mac files ported over to a PC will be immediately usable, although networks such as TOPS create secondary hidden files to store the resource fork, which must be cleaned up from time to time," adds Rimmer.

The TIFF format is the most promising export path for graphics, since it was designed to be platform-independent. But the various "flavors" of TIFF can cause problems, says Matt Drury, sysop of the graphics forums. "The trick is to be sure that the program on the originating computer can write the TIFF format that the destination computer needs." CompuServe's GIF standard doesn't vary, but when porting GIFs from Macs to PCs, the "MacBinary" header that holds a file's forks together must be overlooked by the PC's software. "Otherwise, it causes the PC to think the file is a bad GIF," says Drury, who recommends a DOS program called QuickCheck for removing the header (see "Sharing Moments," above).

Rimmer suggests establishing a workable hardware system for moving files, such as on a local area network or serial link ("Understand what it's really doing," he advises.),

Files for Getting Across: Platform-Linking Uploads

If you're trying to get DOS-based files onto a Macintosh or Mac files onto an IBM PC, CompuServe forum libraries contain a number of helpful programs and informative texts available for downloading.

Basics

Conversion Explained—Two files, one a captured thread and the other a magazine article by Skye Lininger, discuss how to go either direction in the PC/Mac conversion. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 1, "Forum Transcripts," MAC2PC.TXT (7,804 bytes); and Library 16, "Magazine Articles," MAC2PC.TXT (31,898 bytes).

Mac Download on a PC—This text tells why you can't download to a PC and transfer the file to a Mac, and gives other information about moving files between the two platforms. Mac New Users Help Forum (GO MACNEW), Library 1, "Help Files," BEGN02.TXT (13,437 bytes).

What's RTF?—The Rich Text Format specification is outlined, for users and developers in Mac, Windows and OS/2 who need to know more about it. Microsoft Word Forum (GO MSWORD), Library 5, "Word for the Mac," RTFMAC.SEA (71,168 bytes).

Macintosh Programs and Info

Display PCXs—Mac program to read and display bitmapped PCX files from a DOS machine. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 5, "Mac DTP Utilities," PCXTC.SIT (54,016 bytes).

Graphic Converter—Application converts most better-known image formats between Mac-

intosh and DOS, UNIX, Amiga and Atari. Graphics Support Forum (GO GRAPH SUPPORT), Library 4, "Format Conversion," GCONV.SEA (325,376 bytes).

RTF Convert—Takes a Macintosh Microsoft Word RTF file containing embedded PICTs and generates a Windows Word RTF file containing embedded bitmaps. Macintosh Applications Forum (GO MACAP), Library 2, "Word Processing," RTFCON.SIT (34,048 bytes).

Timbuktu Trial—One-week, fully functional demo version of Timbuktu Pro, which enables enhanced communications between networked Macs and PCs, with multiple protocols, remote control, security options and file exchange. Requires AppleTalk or TCP/IP and DiskCopy. Macintosh C Vendor Forum (GO MACCVEN), Library 10, "Farallon," TB2FTV.SEA (811,264 bytes).

UnZIP—A Mac program to decompress DOS files compressed with PKZIP. Macintosh Communications Forum (GO MACCOMM), Library 4, "Comm Progs/Utils," UZ201.CPT (156,032 bytes).

File Name Mapper—Automates exchange of files between the Macintosh 31-character names and Windows/DOS' 8-dot-3 file name convention. Macintosh Developers Forum (GO MACDEV), Library 13, "Tools/Debuggers," FNMMPR.SEA (42,880 bytes).

Balthazar—Converts Windows WAV-format sounds to System 7 clickable sounds, calculating the correct sample rate and preserving stereo/mono. Macintosh Entertainment Forum (GO MACFUN), Library 6, "Sound Utilities," BALTHZ.SEA (54,912 bytes).

Database-to-HyperCard—This utility transfers DOS dBASE and FoxPro DBF-format files to Mac HyperCard, using Apple File Exchange. Macintosh Scripting/HyperCard Forum (GO MACSCRIPT), Library 7, "Home/Utilities," DBREAD.SEA (17,024 bytes).

Flatten Movies—Simple utility to "flatten" QuickTime movies (putting all media references in one file), allowing them to be moved to other platforms. Macintosh Multimedia Forum (GO MACMEDIA), Library 7, "QuickTime Tools," FLATMO.SIT (6,272 bytes).

Imagery Converter—Converts many foreign graphics formats into Macintosh-compatible TIFF, PICT2 or GIF files. New formats include Lotus PIC. Macintosh Multimedia Forum, Library 10, "Paint/Draw Tools," IMGR18.SEA (127,488 bytes).

Apple File Exchange Intro—A quick text introduction to using Apple File Exchange, with the example of mounting an IBM-formatted disk on the Mac desktop. Mac New Users Help Forum (GO MACNEW), Library 1, "Help Files," APFLEX.SEA (74,880 bytes).

DOS Mounter Demo—Demo version of Dayna Communication's DOS Mounter init program, facilitating file transfer of DOS files. Macintosh Systems Forum (GO MACSYS), Library 4, "Control Panels," DOSMNT.SIT (41,600 bytes).

Evolutions—Program to make DOS text files more Mac-like by removing hard returns, changing normal quotes to fancy, double dashes to long dashes and more. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 7, "Utilities," EVOL10.SIT (16,768 bytes).

WordPerfect Translation—Two scripts for

picking a format and sticking with it (GIF for 256 colors; TIFF for true-color), and using a bridge application such as Graphics Workshop to smooth out the wrinkles and view the post-transfer image to see if all went well. "When it's handled correctly, porting image files should leave you with perfect destination files—the process is wholly lossless," Rimmer emphasizes.

Physical Connectivity

The easiest part of the problem is physical connectivity. The first choice is to use the Mac's SuperDrive or a LAN. LANs such as Novell Netware and Banyan Vines support both PCs and Macs. Farrallon Computing's PhoneNet PC connects PCs to either LocalTalk or Ethernet. Lacking those alternatives, PCs and Macs can transfer through their RS-232 interfaces or use a program such as Traveling Software's LapLink.

Journalism Forum member John Martin publishes two small magazines from his home office in Houston, Texas. He has two PCs and two Macs networked with an AppleTalk network, using Coactive Connectors for the PCs. His circulation list is main-

tained on a PC, but his prospecting lists come from a CD-ROM on one of the Macs. He receives information via satellite connected to one of the PCs and uses Aldus PageMaker on one of the Macs. "I move data from machine to machine every day, using the one that has the right software for the job," he says. With the systems networked, he can transfer files without worrying about hardware incompatibilities.

These methods all may fail, however, if you're not equipped with the proper hardware and need to transfer a file in a hurry. In this case, a simple method is to upload a file to yourself on CompuServe, using the host platform, and download it to the target.

Common Software Applications

The format differences between applications is actually greater than the differences between platforms, notes Macintosh forums Sysop Bill Cook. The easiest means of finding compatibility is using the same application in its DOS and Mac incarnations. "Microsoft Word on a Mac can read Word off a PC pretty easily, but Word on a Mac can't deal with the PC WordPerfect worth beans," he says. There

are translators available, but because the programs are in themselves different, there are some things that just don't translate, adds Cook. "If I do columns in WordPerfect, it doesn't transfer at all well into Microsoft Word because the concept of a 'column' is different between the two companies. If one program has a feature that simply is not supported in the other, you're dead in the water—and that's very common, especially between the word processors."

Microsoft Word 6.0 and Excel 5.0 are designed to share files between platforms, but earlier versions of the programs aren't as interoperable. Wahlster uses Word for Windows 2.0 and isn't happy with the built-in filters because they don't get all styles across. He uses a file conversion utility, Word-for-Word from The Software Toolworks. "Word-for-Word is especially useful for foreign language files to convert the character sets properly and for converting non-Windows files," Wahlster says.

The file conversion process is simplified by using the same generation of software. Working From Home Forum member Chris Starbuck, an electronics engineer who is

Apple File Exchange, one converting WordPerfect 5.0/DOS files into RTF, the second converting Microsoft Word or Works RTF export files to WordPerfect. Microsoft Word Forum (GO MSWORD), Library 5, "Word for the Mac," RTF (117,248 bytes) and WP5.1 (117,248 bytes).

Zip It—A full-featured Mac program to compress and decompress files in the manner of PKZIP. Achieves compression comparable to that of Stuffit and Compact Pro, with complete Mac interface. No need to change file types or creators—each is assigned automatically. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 5, "Macintosh Files," ZIPIT.SEA (164,736 bytes).

WordPerfect Conversion—Updated filters for WordPerfect 3.0 for Macintosh, allowing the import and export of WordPerfect 6.0 (for DOS or Windows) files. WordPerfect Users Forum (GO WPUSERS), Library 10, "Macintosh Apps," WP3CNV.SEA (146,432 bytes).

DOS Programs and Info

Fastback Instructions—Text explaining how to restore backups from a Mac equipped with Fastback Plus on a PC that also has the program. Fifth Generation Forum (GO FIFTHGEN), Library 2, "Fastback DOS & Win," IBMMAC.TXT (10,474 bytes).

TIFF Converter—PC program that converts an image with a Macintosh version of the TIFF format to the Intel (PC) version, or vice versa. Graphics Support Forum (GO GRAPH-SUPPORT), Library 15, "Non-GIF Software," FLPTIF.ZIP (11,350 bytes).

MegaEdit—Much-touted shareware text editor for Windows that allows import/export of Mac

and UNIX text files. Many features. IBM Applications Forum (GO IBMAPPI), Library 1, "Text Editors," MEGAED.ZIP (136,639 bytes).

Directory Display—Displays the directory from a Mac 1.44MB diskette on an IBM PC or compatible with high-density 3.5-inch disk drive. IBM Systems Forum (GO IBMSYS), Library 3, "General Utils," MDIR.ZIP (33,920 bytes).

MUD—The "Swiss Army knife" of file type converters changes DOS, UNIX and Mac file record markers from one to either of the other two formats. Search-and-replace feature for binary or text file types. IBM Systems Forum, Library 6, "File Utilities," MUD.ZIP (38,116 bytes).

UnStuffit/PC—Runs on DOS machines and extracts files compressed in Mac Stuffit archives. Version 1.1 has significant improvements. Macintosh C Vendor Forum (GO MACCVEN), Library 2, "Aladdin Systems," UNSITI.EXE (134,640 bytes).

MacBinary Remover—A small DOS utility that takes away the MacBinary header from any downloaded, Mac-created files. Useful with Stuffit archives of text or MIDI files. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 7, "MS-DOS Files," UNMACA.COM (4,755 bytes).

Quick Transfer—Allows quick and easy transfer of Macintosh data to/from your PC via a 3.5-inch hard drive disk, SyQuest disk, CD-ROM or other Mac hard drives without hardware. Allows transfer of files using any of more than 20 translation modes. DOS and Windows versions included. Windows Shareware Forum (GO WINSHARE), Library 2, "File Utilities," MACSEE.ZIP (107,136 bytes).

Bridge Info—Press release describing Software Bridge 6.0, including new support for Word 6.0, WordPerfect 6.0 and Ami Pro. Windows 3rd Party E Forum, (GO WINAPE), Library 2, "Systems Compatibility Corp.," SB60.TXT (5,084 bytes).

ExtractorPC—A PC-compatible program that extracts the contents of some archives produced on Macintosh computers. Handles many SEA (Self Extracting Archive) and CPT (Compact Pro) archives. Zenith Forum, Library 5, "DOS Utilities," MACEXT.EXE (32,449 bytes).

Pass the Data Fork—A PC program that extracts the contents of the data fork in a MacBinary file to make it available on PC-compatible computers. Useful for obtaining text or graphics. Zenith Forum, Library 5, MB2DOS.ZIP (9,185 bytes).

Mac-Ette—Menued DOS program allowing a PC with 3.5-inch 1.4MB diskette drive transfer files from 1.4MB Macintosh diskettes. Opens and changes folders, copies resource/data fork files, edits file names for DOS, and performs carriage return/linefeed translation. Zenith Forum Library 5, MACETT.ZIP (19,869 bytes).

Font Converter—A font type converter that converts Macintosh Type 1 outlines to IBM Type 1 outlines (PFB), Mac TrueType outlines to IBM TrueType outlines (TTF) and Postscript AFM files to Windows-compatible PFM files. Zenith Forum, Library 8, "DOS DTP & Graphics," REFNT4.ZIP (36,638 bytes).

—Christopher J. Galvin

starting his own electronic design and development business in St. Louis, Missouri, did Macintosh-to-PC file conversions for his former employer. He found most Microsoft conversions to be easy. "Aldus applications would have been easy, if we had upgraded our Macs to the latest versions of Persuasion and PageMaker," he says. "Without upgrades, it was impossible."

Moving down the interoperability chain, another alternative is to use a common file format such as ASCII or Microsoft's Rich Text Format. ASCII file transfers are preferable to retyping, but they are less than desirable for most applications. With word processing you lose the formatting; with spreadsheets you lose the formulas. Another solution is to select programs with built-in converters. For example, most spreadsheets can read and write Lotus 1-2-3's format, and most database management systems can read Borland's dBASE format.

Conversion Utilities

For some applications, you may need a conversion utility. John Rawnsley of Coven-

try, United Kingdom, the Macintosh sysop in the U.K. Computing Forum (GO UKCOMP), uses Insignia Solutions' AccessPC on his Macs so he can mount DOS disks directly. "I find a high degree of compatibility between the systems and few problems," he says.

DataViz's MacLink Plus is the conversion software of choice for Ken Norkin, who has been going both directions between DOS and Mac since software for the task was available. He notes that most of the compatibility developments have taken place on the Mac end. He writes copy on a Mac Quadra AV in either Microsoft Word or Works, and translates the files into Word for Windows or WordPerfect for clients using PCs. MacLink Plus, he says, is "one of the few software packages that does everything it promises as easily as it promises."

James Haggerty, who runs a weekly newspaper in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, produces newspapers of more than 100 pages entirely on Macs and PCs. He uses MacLink Plus with ClarisWorks for most of his translations, and MacZip to send files in ASCII format to a Canadian government

agency. "With these three, there doesn't seem to be a lot that can stop us," he says. "But graphic files are a different beast; we haven't tried to deal with them. I hope to use Transverter Pro to solve this problem."

Graphics Sysop Drury often does PC-to-Mac conversions in creating a living-history newsletter he authors, using a shareware DOS program called MacSee. "It lets me transfer text files and Aldus PageMaker documents to and from Mac diskettes on my PC—it's very well-written and runs seamlessly under DOS or Windows."

The ease in transferring files between platforms boils down to three things: how new your hardware is, what kind of application programs you are running and how seamless you expect the transfer to be. If you want to transfer between completely incompatible programs, you'll need a file conversion utility, which costs money. If you prefer to invest in sweat equity, you can usually do an ASCII transfer and reformat the file manually. In between, there are a multitude of programs designed to ease the way. As more vendors program for both platforms, the choices increase constantly. ☐

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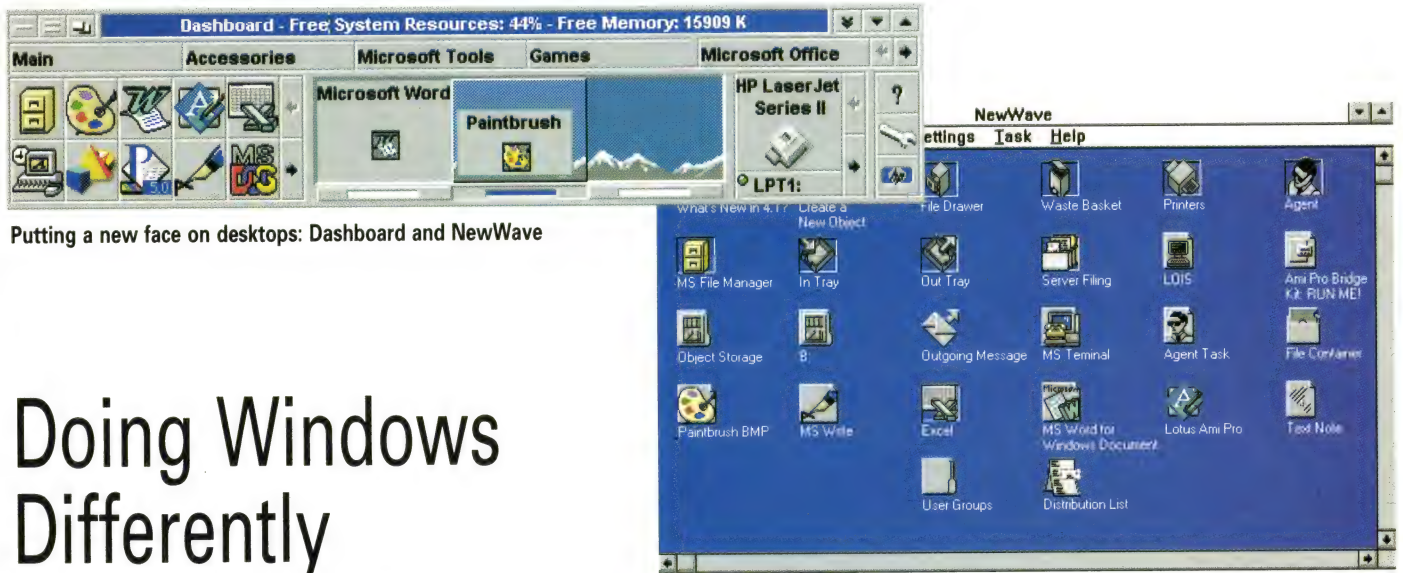
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Putting a new face on desktops: Dashboard and NewWave

Doing Windows Differently

► Alternative desktops can make the PC interface breezier to use.

It's a common observation that Windows makes an IBM PC more like a Mac. Apple even went so far as to sue Microsoft on the theory that Windows was so much like a Mac that it infringed on Apple's copyrights. But to anyone familiar with both, it came as no surprise that Microsoft won in court. Windows still has a long way to go to match the undisputed easy-interface champ.

The Mac makes life easy for users, particularly beginners, by integrating basic tasks—starting programs, opening documents, switching tasks, disk housekeeping—into a single elegant tool, the Finder. Windows, on the other hand, divides these interrelated tasks among a confusing group of utilities. This is a big step up from DOS, but falls well short of the Mac standard.

Windows users don't have to settle for these limitations, which can be overcome by using alternative desktops. Such utilities supplant Windows' standard toolkit—the Program Manager, File Manager, Task List and Desktop—with capable replacements.

The desktop that comes the closest to turning Windows into a Mac is Hewlett-Packard's NewWave (which explains why HP was Microsoft's co-defendant in the Apple suit). NewWave takes over Windows so completely that it feels as if you've switched to a different operating system. Its folders, objects and drag-and-drop operations are very similar to OS/2's Workplace Shell.

Just as if you had switched operating systems, using NewWave means learning new ways of working. For example, to create a new file in Windows, you start an application, create a new document, enter data, then name the document as you save it. In NewWave, you use the desktop's "Create a New Object" command, pick the kind of document you want (for example, budget report, newsletter, e-mail message) from a scrolling list, name it, then start entering data.

This document-centered approach is simple and elegant, but it doesn't work

straight out of the box. Even sophisticated users have to put in time and effort to get NewWave working the way it's supposed to. "If you are new to NewWave, you need some hand-holding," says Eduard Wulff, a systems engineer for an insurance company in Hamburg, Germany, who shares his expertise with other users in Section 10, "NewWave," of the Hewlett-Packard Systems Forum (GO HPSYS).

One example of the kind of confusion new users experience stems from NewWave's plain-English file and folder names ("June '94 Expense Report" instead of "6-94EXRP.DOC"), which are visible only on the NewWave desktop. Bring up an applications File Open dialog box, and you'll see a directory full of files with unfamiliar DOS names—one for every NewWave object associated with that application. "You essentially have to forget about the File/Open command and stick to the NewWave desktop objects," says Gregg Nemesure, a NewWave user and electrical engineer from Fairfax, Virginia.

Slightly less integrated but significantly easier to use are the two best-selling alternative desktops, Norton Desktop for Windows and PC Tools for Windows. Both let you keep frequently used icons on the desktop for easy access, and enable you to organize the rest of your applications and documents into hierarchical groups (unlike Windows' Program Manager, which won't let you nest one group inside another). Both can read most popular file formats, so you can view documents before opening them or search for documents based on their contents.

Both also include not just desktops but also many other goodies—including tape backup, antivirus, data recovery tools—which account for much of their appeal. "I would have bought Norton Desktop for Windows because of its easy file management, but the extras make it an even better buy," says Dave Horne, a jazz pianist from West Point, New York. "I use the Day Planner appointment calendar all the time."

An indication of the two programs' popularity is the high traffic in their CompuServe forums: the Central Point Windows/Mac Forum's (GO CPSWIN) Section 8, "PCT/Win Desktop," for PC Tools, and the Symantec Utilities Forum's (GO SYMUTIL) Section 3, "Desktop for Windows," for Norton. The similarity in the two programs is shown by how much alike the most common

message threads are: resolving conflicts between the desktops and other programs' setup utilities, troubleshooting out-of-resource problems and mysterious GPFs (General Protection Faults), and discussing the latest upgrades. Both forums have relatively few questions about installation, which is an encouraging sign for buyers looking for ease of use. The most common problems are conflicts with other software on users' systems, which generally are fixed by minor configuration adjustments. For example, users in both forums reported problems after upgrading to Windows for Workgroups version 3.11. The solution was the same for both programs: switch off 3.11's 32-bit file access.

Another popular but considerably less ambitious desktop is XTree. The Windows version of this longtime DOS favorite is primarily a souped-up file manager. XTree users are particularly pleased with the way the program handles ZIPped, or compressed, files. As London futurist Alan M. Dunsmuir explains, when you open a ZIP archive, it looks just like a disk drive. "I can work with the files in the archive just as if they were separate uncompressed files—drag and drop to copy them, search them for text strings or look inside them with XTreeWin's viewer." Since XTree was recently purchased by Central Point, XTree users now are turning up in the Central Point DOS Forum (GO CPSDOS) in Section 16, "XTree Products."

One of the easiest desktops to use is HP's Dashboard. This compact program-launcher and task-switcher appeals to people who like efficiency and simplicity. They say it's faster

COMPUTING SERVICES

and easier to navigate than Program Manager. "With Windows' Program Manager, I was always rearranging the groups so I wouldn't have to scroll much to find the programs," complains HP Systems Forum member Laurel Van Dyke, a teacher in Kokomo, Indiana. "With Dashboard, all I have to do is click once or twice to reach any program."

Bill Ford, an electronics design engineer in Berkshire, United Kingdom, lauds Dashboard's printer controls. "Under each printer icon is an 'LED,' red to indicate the current default. To change it, just click the bar once under the printer you want. Double-clicking the icon takes you straight to the setup box for that printer. It beats using Control Panel any day."

Dashboard also includes a virtual desktop feature, which lets you open multiple desktops and toggle between them, allowing you to open more windows than could fit comfortably

on the screen. (PC Tools for Windows also has virtual desktops.) Sysop Geven Grantham of the Lotus Words and Pixels Forum (GO LOTUSB) likes to use PC Tools for Windows on his desktop, but on his notebook he uses Dashboard because its disk requirements are so much lighter—only 1.5MB compared with PC Tools' 10MB to 18MB.

These are only the most popular alternative desktops and Program/File Manager replacements. There are others, which include hDC Power Launcher (GO WINAPA), Metz Task Manager (GO WINAPC) and Symantec's Direct Access (GO SYMFGS). There are also shareware tools that offer many of the features of the major-brand alternative desktops, particularly when used in combination.

On his home PC, U.S. Air Force Flight Chief Don Leiter prefers the combination of PMPLUS, a Program Manager add-on that

lets users nest program groups, plus SuperBar, which he uses instead of Task Manager because he can leave it showing at the bottom of his screen.

Windows Users Group Network Forum (GO WUGNET) Sysop Joel Diamond's home base is File Manager, enhanced with File Commander and WizManager to add a button bar, command line support, custom menus and other goodies (see "Desktop Files and Utilities," p.27).

The next version of Windows, due out late this year (although many pundits expect the release to slip into 1995), should eliminate many of the problems that motivate users to seek alternative desktops. Microsoft has announced that the upgrade will have a Mac-style integrated desktop and long file names. Luckily, if you don't want to wait that long for a better desktop, you don't have to.

Robert Lauriston is a free-lance computer journalist who owns Macs and IBM PCs and writes regularly about both. His CompuServe User ID number is 75300,3205.

COMPUTING SERVICES

'Virtual' Desktops Add More Screen to the Same Monitor

Anyone who has ever opened numerous Windows applications knows the frustration and confusion of trying to find a buried window, maximizing and minimizing layer after layer looking for an icon not seen since startup. But the search has ended for many multitasking users who have discovered "virtual desktops," programs that turn a monitor into a grid of workspaces.

The programs were first seen as features on alternative desktop programs such as PC Tools for Windows and Dashboard. "A Dashboard user can select from three, five, seven or nine extended screens," says Steve Steele, editor of the *PC News Review*, available in the Windows Shareware Forum (GO WINSHARE), Library 10, "General Windows Apps" (search using the keyword PC NEWS). "When Dashboard is minimized, the user is given the option for the minimized icon to display little boxes that represent the screens. If the user clicks on one of the boxes, the screen changes to the one selected." Hot keys also can be assigned to switch to the screens.

Virtual desktops also were introduced in a Windows 3.0-era program called MoreWindows and in the TopDesk utility included with Microsoft's Windows 3.0 Resource Kit. Charlie Weesner, a member of the IBM Applications Forum (GO IBMAPP), uses TopDesk on several UNIX machines, each of which regularly runs simultaneously three to five DOS sessions, three to eight Windows applications and often two to four X-Terminal sessions. "That's far too many windows for a single screen," he says.

Shareware versions have led to wider use. Richard Downing, a Duluth, Georgia, student pursuing his master's degree in math and computer science, uses the BigDesk shareware program in a 3-by-3 virtual window configuration to assign virtual screen space to File Manager, a CD player and Sound Blaster mixing control, MathCAD, WinFax, and DOS software pertaining to his neural network and fuzzy logic studies. "I couldn't live without BigDesk. I was always annoyed by having everything on top of everything else," he says. There is no problem with trying to remember what program is inside each of the tiny representations of virtual screens on your mapping grid, as long as you don't try to use the 81-screen maximum, Downing adds. "You quickly become accustomed to where things are."

—Christopher J. Galvin

Here are shareware virtual desktop programs available in several CompuServe forums:

OS/2 USERS FORUM (GO OS2USER)

9Lives—Provides a grid of up to 81 (9-by-9) virtual desktops, with task following, sticky windows, layout management and more. Library 4, "Application Questions," 9LIVES.ZIP (72,178 bytes).

WINDOWS SHAREWARE FORUM (GO WINSHARE)

BigDesk—Award-winning program that gives up to 64 times more Windows elbow room, with keep-to-front option on the map window. Library 2, "File Utilities," BGD234.ZIP (51,200 bytes).

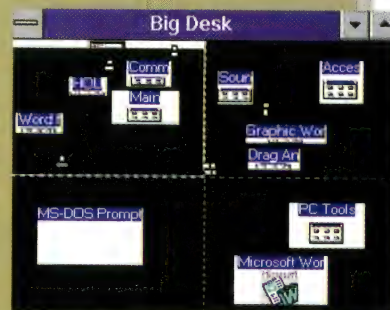
Virtual Desktop Tools—VDT increases your on-screen workspace up to 100 times the size of the standard Windows desktop. Automatically starts applications and places them to desired size and location. Library 6, "General Windows Utilities," VDT02W.ZIP (296,960 bytes).

Virtual Monitors—Demo of program that increases Windows space 1,200 percent. Includes task/window management capabilities to organize groups of applications. Library 6, VMON.ZIP (73,856 bytes).

Objective Desktop—Windows program and file manager with UNIX-style browser has tools including 2-by-2 virtual desktop, smart dialer with directory, sound-capable notepads, Recycler drag-and-drop file deleter, application window size/location saving and more. Library 9, "Program Managers," ODESK.ZIP (380,427 bytes).

ZIFFNET/MAC DOWNLOAD FORUM (GO DOWNLOAD)

Monitor Expander—Non-mapped Macintosh screen expander takes advantage of Apple's NuBus video cards to offer a number of page-around virtual desktops in resolutions up to 1,952-by-2,048 (depending on monitor). Library 3, "Extensions," MONEXP.SIT (38,528 bytes).



Desktop Info Files and Utilities

Various CompuServe vendor and shareware forums can help answer questions you may have about alternative desktops, or provide desktop utilities that give Windows a boost.

CENTRAL POINT WINDOWS/MAC FORUM (GO CPSWIN)

File Manager Test Drive—Try before you buy by downloading the file manager from PC Tools for Windows 2.0. Library 1, "General Information," FMTRL.EXE (1,265,737 bytes).

PC Tools Demo—On-screen demo of PC Tools for Windows 2.0. Library 7, "PC Tools/Win," PCTWDE.EXE (1,403,428 bytes).

HEWLETT-PACKARD SYSTEMS FORUM (GO HPSYS)

NewWave Announcement—Press release on NewWave 4.1. Library 10, "NewWave," NW41.ANN (5,671 bytes).

Dashboard Announcement—Press release on Dashboard 2.0. Library 11, "Dashboard/Miscellaneous Apps," DASH20.ANN (4,188 bytes).

SYMANTEC UTILITIES FORUM (GO SYMUTIL)

Norton Desktop for Windows 3.0 Press Release—Includes screen shots and competitive analysis. Library 3, "Desktop for Windows," NDW30.ZIP (132,136 bytes).

WINDOWS SHAREWARE FORUM (GO WINSHARE)

The libraries in this forum are filled with replacements for and enhancements to Windows' standard toolkit. Here are a few that members and sysops have recommended:

BackMenu—Pop-up application/document menu utility. Library 2, "File Utilities," BKM234.ZIP (113,077 bytes).

BigDesk—Creates virtual desktop up to 64 times the size of your screen. Library 2, BGD234.ZIP (51,200 bytes).

File Commander—Adds user-defined menus and macro language to Windows' File Manager. Library 2, FC-20K.ZIP (279,655 bytes).

WizManager—Adds toolbar and command-line window to Windows' File Manager. Library 2, WIZMGR.ZIP (369,582 bytes).

SuperBar—Creates user-defined toolbars, task list, macros. Library 6, "General Windows Utils," SPRBAR.ZIP (269,312 bytes).

Clybar—Sophisticated, customizable toolbar completely replaces Program Manager. Library 9, "Program Mgrs," CB200.ZIP (531,915 bytes).

RipBar—Toolbar for launching programs, monitoring resources, defining hot keys, many other features. Library 9, RIPBAR.ZIP (225,362 bytes).

Too Cool Tool Cube—Unique toolbar in the form of a 3-D rotating cube. Library 9, CUBE3.ZIP (190,114 bytes).

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▼
Managing Small-Biz
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▼
Saying 'No' to
Business, p.32

► **Business prosperity hinges on knowing how to keep money coming in and when to spend it.**

When Mark Smallwood went into business for himself, he learned a key fact about managing money. The multimedia specialist saw cash flow increasing, obviously a good sign. But a closer examination of incoming funds made it clear to Smallwood that his rates were too low. Any specialty operation, especially one in a field as rapidly changing as multimedia, requires new equipment and output of ever higher quality, along with an increasing commitment of time. "The more I do," says Smallwood, "the more I begin to see I am constrained by the hourly rate situation."

Of such perceptions is business success made. Smallwood now is adjusting his fee structure to a per project basis that will help to fine-tune his cost/labor equation. With the help of Computer Associates' CA-Simply Money, a financial package with a built-in cash flow analysis feature, his Burlingame, California-based company is meeting head-on the challenge that drops many small businesses in their tracks. For as countless

owners have learned to their sorrow, mismanaging money is the route to business extinction.

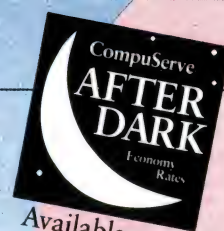
Paul and Sarah Edwards, authors of *Working from Home: Everything You Need to Know About Living and Working Under the Same Roof* (Perigee Books, 1990), make no bones about it. They declare cash flow problems the No. 1 reason for small-business failures. They offer entrepreneurs a pep talk: "You're ingenious, talented and creative, or you wouldn't be in business in the first place. There is always some way for you to serve others and thereby keep the cash flowing in. If you start feeling out of control, just focus on that reality."

From their post as sysops of the Working From Home Forum (GO WORK), the Edwardses serve as counsel to numerous small-business owners on issues such as these. Among their tips in a recent online newsletter:

► Establish a payment policy and be sure that customers and clients fully understand it.

Paul A. Gilster is the author of The Internet Navigator (John Wiley & Sons, 1993). His CompuServe User ID number is 75300,2523.

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This special edition was created to help the more than 14,000 Australian and New Zealand members get the most out of forums and services through CompuServe Pacific.

Winter 1994 Edition

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Love at first Write

by Sue Bushell

Some marriages are made in heaven. The union between Veronica Burri and Kelvin Smith was made on CompuServe. However, things were touch and go between the potential long-distance lovers for so long, it seems miraculous that they ever came together.

continued on page 2

Love at first write —
continued from page 1

When Veronica discovered CompuServe in 1988, she thought she'd see just how far an e-mail message would go. Australia seemed a fair distance from her Vancouver, Canada, home, so she decided to send e-mail messages to some Australians. Choosing people named Smith seemed a logical way to go.

Enter Kelvin Smith, a dairy farmer from Lockington, near Echuca in Victoria. Kelvin started using CompuServe in 1987 to get the NFL football results, but he was happy to respond to Veronica's e-mail with a few online hints and tips.

Veronica was pleased by his kindness but, frankly, appalled by his manner of communication. "I thought: 'This person can't type and is totally illiterate. What's he doing on a computer?'" she says.

Despite her reservations, she replied to his e-mail, and he answered back with a slightly longer one ... and so things continued for months. "Finally, quite a while after we started communicating, Kelvin said 'You may have been wondering why my typing is so funny. I have a broken wrist and have been typing with one hand all these weeks,'" Veronica says.

The rest, as they say, is history. After more months of writing, Veronica came to Australia for a holiday, finally met Kelvin face-to-face and never went home. Meeting in person was like being reunited with an old friend, they both agree.

Three children later, with a fourth on the way, the happy couple is still as delighted with each other as the day they first met. And now, in a sense, things have come full circle.

"We are now selling computers as a sideline to our dairy business," Kelvin explains, "and we use CompuServe Information Manager software."

"It is hard to convey to people what you can do using CompuServe, but believe me, you can do a lot," says Kelvin. ■

Executive News Service

by the staff of the Australian Centre for Computer Science

What is ENS?

The Executive News Service (GO ENS) is a collection of news stories from several major wire services, including the Associated Press, United Press International and Reuters. It is available with the Executive Service option (GO CPBILLING).

How to access ENS

Use the GO command from the *Services* menu and type "ENS," then click on the OK button. Alternatively click on the *News* icon in the basic services window and choose Executive News Service from the list which appears. The name of the service is followed by a dollar sign, indicating it is a premium service.

If you have selected the Executive Service option, you can set up private clipping folders. ENS will search for articles from selected wire services on specific topics and store them in your private clipping folder.

How to use ENS

There are two main folders: *Current News* and *News by Company Ticker*. In addition, extra folders are created to hold stories on topics of widespread special interest.

For this tutorial, we will look through the *Current News* folder and choose some stories. (See Figure 1.)

Click on the *Current News* folder and click on the *Search* button.

From the list of services, click on Reuters World Report and then click on the *Search* button. You can Get an article (read the full text), *Preview* it (read the first few words) or *Mark* it for later retrieval. (The *Delete* button is only available when you are searching a personal folder.)



Figure 1



Figure 2

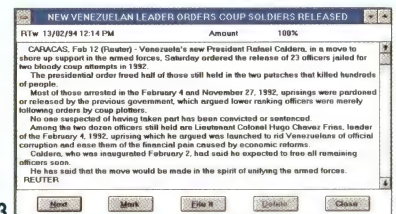


Figure 3

A list similar to Figure 2 will appear. Click on the first item in the list and then on the *Get* button. This will display a window containing the full text of the article (see Figure 3). When you have finished reading the article, click on *Close*.

Click on the next article, then on the *Preview* button. This will display a window containing only the first few words of the article, which is usually enough to decide if it is of interest to you.

Click on each of the first two stories in turn and mark them for retrieval by clicking on the *Mark* button. The check box at the left of each story will be on, as shown in Figure 2.

If you choose one of the special folders, you can also choose to browse through its stories, by clicking on the *Browse* button.

When you are finished marking stories, you can retrieve them using the *Retrieve Marked Messages* command from the *Stories* menu.



Using a forum

by the staff of the Australian Centre for Computer Science

What is a forum?

A forum is a place where CompuServe members meet to exchange information, opinions and ideas. Many special interest groups participate in forums including: Astronomy, Diabetes, Gardening, Mensa, Travel, Politics, etc.

Each forum is run by one or more *sysops* (system operators). They can help you by answering questions, posting notices in the forum and reviewing files before they are put in the library for everyone's use.

Locating a forum

In this article, we will describe the use of the Practice Forum, which is provided specifically to let you practice using a forum. The Practice Forum is part of basic services and is an economical way to develop online skills. To find out what forums are available, use the *Find* command from the *Services* menu and type "Forum".

If you know the name of the forum you want to access (in this case 'PRACTICE'), you can use the *GO* command from the *Services* menu or click on the *GO* button. In the text box, type the name of the forum or service you want and click on the *OK* button.

When you first access a forum (but not the Practice Forum), a welcome message is displayed. You can either *Join* or *Visit* the forum. Joining gives you greater privileges but is not necessary. Before you join, you can use the *Name* box to enter a different name to attach to any messages and files you send to the forum. You can also enter your personal interests.

The forum menus

There are three new menus in the forum menu bar: *Messages* allows you to post messages which can be read by all members of the forum; *Library* provides access to programs and articles which may be downloaded to your computer; *Conference* allows you to "talk" online to other forum users in real time.

Forum messages

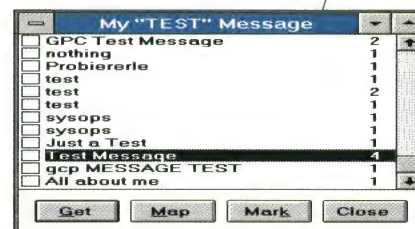
All forum messages are filed in sections, which focus on specific aspects of the forum's area of interest. When you post a message, you apply a subject heading. When someone else replies, the same subject heading is applied. Together, all messages relating to the same subject make up a topic or *thread*. The topics within a section are kept separate. All messages will eventually be deleted, but they will remain in the forum until displaced by a number of more recent messages.

Looking through messages

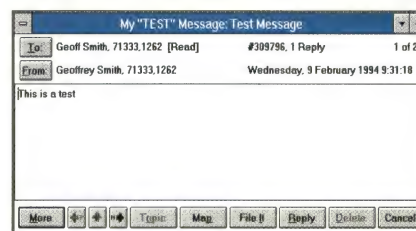
To look through all available messages, use the *Messages* menu.

Since 10/02/94 7:04 PM		
Title	Topics	Messs
From the Sysops	26	32
Composing/Replying	33	86
Reading Messages	19	51
Using the Libraries	34	76
How to Conference	14	37
Using Mem Directory	8	19
User Options Menu	1	3
Forum Etiquette	4	9
Other Forum Feature	12	22
My "TEST" Message	218	352
Forums with CIM	112	238
Referrals	67	142

1 Choose *Browse* from the *Messages* menu. A list of sections is displayed, showing the number of messages and topics in each. (The list will no doubt have changed by the time you try this.)



2 Click on a section and then on the *Select* button to display a list of the topics in that section.



3 Highlight a topic and click on the *Get* button to display the messages in that topic. You can browse the messages using the five buttons at the left of the message dialog box.

More continues through the current message, topic or section.

The arrow marked *P* displays the previous message in the topic.

The arrow pointing up displays the message you are viewing a reply to.

The arrow marked *N* displays the next message in the topic.

Topic displays the first message in the next topic.

File It files the message in your filing cabinet.

continued on page 5

The 1st July 1994 will mark the 3rd birthday of CompuServe Pacific and the enhanced access to the CompuServe Information Service for members in Australia and New Zealand.

What's new

Economy rates now available!

— explore more of
CompuServe after dark



A new economy rate reduces the FALNET network rate by A\$0.10/NZ\$0.13 per minute for both 2400 and 9600 bps. The economy rate is available every day from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. Sydney time, 9:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. New Zealand time. The NZ daytime rate has also decreased to NZ\$0.32 (from \$NZ0.34) per minute. The changes take place from 5 June 1994.

CompuServe's 3rd birthday downunder

- Membership has grown to more than 14,000 members, from fewer than 1,000 in 1991.
- The introduction of Pacific forums and services for local issues and support.
- The availability of high-speed access, using 9600bps modems at many sites.
- The announcement of the economy rates for off-peak network access allowing members to explore many more of the CompuServe services as well as pursuing their hobbies and interests.
- The steady reduction in access charges — to A\$0.27/NZ\$0.34 per minute for extended services, during the evening, from an initial A\$0.60/NZ\$0.82 per minute (at 2400 bps)
- The introduction of the Standard Pricing Plan, providing access to up to 60 services for a low A\$0.15/NZ\$0.19 per minute, during the evening.

Using a Forum — continued from page 4

From time to time, you may need to update the list of messages, to see if any new messages have been added since you entered the forum. Use the *Freshen Messages* command from the *Messages* menu.

Retrieving messages

The cheapest way to read messages is to retrieve them and read them later when you are not logged onto CompuServe. To do this, click on the *Mark* button while displaying topics or individual messages. When you leave the forum, WinCIM and MacCIM will ask whether you want to retrieve the marked messages. Retrieved messages are stored in the *Filing Cabinet* under the name of the forum from which they were retrieved.

Replying to a message

The *Reply* button provides a message box with the recipient, topic

and section already filled in. Simply fill in the message and send it immediately or put it in your *Out Basket* to send later.

Sending a new message

- 1 Select *Create Forum Message* from the *Mail* menu.
- 2 Fill in the subject and the name of the person to whom the message is to be sent. Select the name of the forum from the drop-down list at the right, containing recently accessed forums, and also the section into which you wish to place the message.
- 3 Either *Send* the message immediately or put it in your *Out Basket* to send later.

Try this for practice

Log onto CompuServe and go to the Practice Forum.

Read a message in one of the sections.

Send a message using a new subject heading.

Use the *Freshen Messages* command from the *Messages* menu to update the list of messages displayed.

Read the message you sent to the forum and reply to it.

You might find that someone else is reading the messages and will reply to your message also. Who knows, you could end up making a few new friends, especially when you access the standard forums and start discussing things that are of specific interest to you.

In a future article, we will look at how you can “talk” online to other forum users in real time, rather than just sending each other messages. ■

Retrieved files are stored in the Filing Cabinet under one of several headings.

The Filing Cabinet

The Filing Cabinet is a section of your disk drive which is used by WinCIM and MacCIM to store mail (both sent and received), forum messages, ENS stories and so on. This bears little relation to the directory structure of the disk — it is created and controlled by CIM.

When you first retrieve files from the *Current News* folder, a folder called *Current News* is created in the Filing Cabinet. If you retrieve stories from a personal folder, a folder is created in the *Filing Cabinet* with the same name as your folder.

To read stories in the Filing Cabinet, use the *Filing Cabinet* command from the *Mail* menu. Click on the appropriate folder and Open it. You can *Open* or *Delete* the stories. When you open a story, it can be deleted or filed (in your choice of folder), or you can move to the *Next* story.

As well as storing stories retrieved from ENS, every time you retrieve messages from a forum, CIM creates a folder with the name of the forum and stores the retrieved messages there. This can be useful when you are trying to locate a file, but if you forget where the message or story came from, it can be difficult to find.

The Executive Service option provides benefits such as access to the Executive News Service clipping facility and a 10% discount on CompuServe products. There is a minimum charge of A\$18/NZ\$24 per month for the option, and a premium of US\$15 per hour for accessing ENS.

The Australian Centre for Computer Science, located in Sydney, can be contacted via CompuServe Mail at User ID number 100026,1035. ■



Winner! Our 10,000th member is Geoffrey Vines, Managing Partner of Price Waterhouse, NSW.

Attention! New Zealand members

New Zealand User Groups

If you are interested in participating in regional user groups throughout New Zealand, please contact Colin Wallis, CompuServe's NZ Marketing Manager, at User ID number 75300,2206.

New Zealand Seminar Series.

Planning is underway for seminars June — September in New Zealand metropolitan centres, with separate seminars for existing and prospective members. If you or a colleague are interested, please send an e-mail message to Colin Wallis at User ID number 75300,2206 to indicate your interest. Please provide your postal address and topics that you would like to see covered. ■

Catch us out to win — if you dare!

The Windows Solution section (GO WINSOL) dares you to test our skills. We have seven of the best independent experts in Australia to support PC developers. We cover Windows NT and Advanced Server Microsoft APIs, Visual Basic, Access, C and C++ (Borland, Microsoft and Symantec), dBase, Clipper, FoxPro and DBFast, Pascal, Assembler and many others

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Who's who in CompuServe Pacific

Stuart Broad

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CompuServe Pacific

Brendon Lansdowne

Marketing Manager
(Australia)

Colin Wallis

Marketing Manager
(New Zealand)

Subra Venkat

Technical Manager

Murray Chaffer

Dale Cohen

Denise Connors

Manish Goklaney

Kylie Johnston

Andre Lackmann

Anh Tran

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Other: (612) 410 4260

Facsimile: Australia: (02) 410 4223
New Zealand: (04) 495 0730

Electronic Mail Member Service: 70006,101

HINTS and TIPS

When do we bill you?

CompuServe Pacific's week ends on a Saturday. Therefore, if you pay by credit card, your weekly charges are put through after Saturday. Because each billing month ends on the last Saturday of the month, the best time to cancel your membership is before the last Saturday of the month. DC

Credit card dates

Often credit card numbers will stay the same with the issuance of a new card. However, expiry dates will change. It is important for our records to ensure that expiry dates are valid. To update your credit card expiry date GO CPCHANGE. DC

How to find out what's happening on CompuServe

To read the latest CompuServe Pacific announcements GO CPNEW. This takes you to the What's New Menu which announces recent information specifically relevant to Australian and New Zealand members. DC

REPLY COUPON

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Accounting Vendor Support Forum Opens

If you're a businessperson seeking an accounting package compatible with your office's computers or an accounting student needing help with a project, take your questions to the experts in the Accounting Vendor Support Forum (GO ACCOUNTING). Accounting hardware and software makers supply answers about their products, and member certified public accountants are often available to field general queries.

"Whether someone is starting a new business and deciding on an accounting system, needs help picking out software or is thinking of going into the field, this is the place to get help," says Sysop Thom Hartmann.

If you need accounting software upgrades, demos or shareware, you can download packages such as DAYO Payroll 4.54 (DAYOYE.EXE, Library 5, "Dayo Software"), SCALA for Windows (SCAWIN.EXE, Library 1, "Demos, Info, News") and ZPAY's PayWindow (PAYWIN.ZIP, Library 2, "ZPAY Payroll") from the forum's libraries. The libraries are also a source for patches, updates and product information.

Vendors providing support in the forum include Good Software, One Write Plus, SCALA International, TJS LAB/DAYO Accounting, ZPAY Payroll Systems and XP Systems.

—Tracy Mygrant

- ▶ Collect money up front in full or in part whenever possible.
- ▶ Collect any balance of payment immediately upon delivery or completion of your work whenever possible.
- ▶ If you must bill upon completion of your work, invoice immediately. "Don't let the sun set on work completed without an invoice going in the mail," they warn in the newsletter.

Forum regular Audrey Choden runs Training by Design, a custom-training development business, from her home in Overland Park, Kansas. Acknowledging that her overhead costs are low, Choden nonetheless says that cash flow is a problem because she needs her customers to pay on time and must always plan for future cash demands. Among her strategies for managing it are planning for future demands by building up a reserve in her business account. This requires estimating quarterly tax payments, equipment purchases and subcontractor fees. The reserve acts as a cushion, with excess funds going into a retirement account at year's end.

Another key to managing the business is making sure that clients pay their bills on time. Choden includes payment terms in her contracts and makes sure the clients are aware of them. "I also bill early and often," Choden adds. "Since most of my projects last three to six months, I bill on a monthly basis for hours and expenses rather than by deliverable. My payment terms are net 15 (due in full in 15 days), and I call the client if payment is even one day late." The strategy works, although the slow economy of the early 1990s saw many of the corporations Choden does business with increase their payables from 30 to 45 days, forcing this small-business owner to follow up on invoices

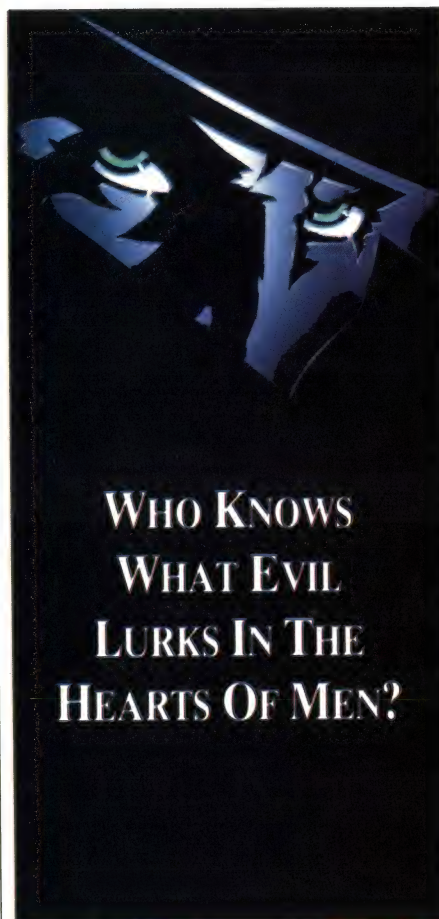
to ensure timely payment.

For Larry Bear, good cash flow management depends on not making commitments to pay a bill until the income to cover an expense is available. Bear also works from his home, running a successful brokerage that helps companies buy middle market businesses, defined as companies with sales up to \$100 million. Based in Oak Ridge, New Jersey, Bear has seen numerous approaches to cash flow management in small companies and has developed a set of maxims for business success. One key strategy is to pay for needed equipment in cash to avoid paying interest on loans.

Here are more of Bear's pointers on how a small business can make its costs vary with its income:

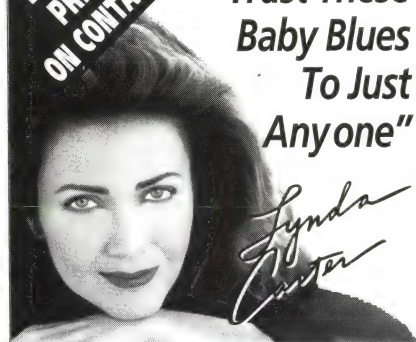
- ▶ Work out of your home; don't rent an office.
- ▶ Hire outside work on a per project basis.
- ▶ Pay yourself a percentage of income as it comes in.
- ▶ Cut costs wherever possible. For example, design a letterhead you can print on your computer rather than having it printed professionally.

"The importance of making all of the expenses variable," says Bear, "is that, from Day 1, your new company should be profitable. If you have committed to a lot of fixed expenses, such as payroll and rent, then you have to generate more revenue every month just to cover the fixed overhead." Bear says the most profitable small firm he has ever seen is a five-person company, now doing almost \$3 million in sales per year, which makes it a practice to farm out project work to free-lancers rather than adding to office staff; the owner is very successful at keeping his monthly costs as low as possible.



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For the small business that makes it, success is hard won. Fortunately, Working From Home Forum members have the opportunity to talk to people who have built successful companies from scratch.

Laura Douglas is a case in point. Two years ago, she took one branch of a family company independent, converting a sales and manufacturing facility into a stand-alone business called MAX International Converters Inc. The firm converts large rolls of paper into the smaller rolls used in such machines as faxes, automatic teller machines and cash registers.

Douglas is also co-author of a book called *Getting Business to Come to You*, which she wrote with Paul and Sarah Edwards. She finds the most common cash flow mistake to be a lack of foresight. "Most small-business owners don't know exactly how much money it is going to take to cover their expenses until they get paid for their product or service," says Douglas. "They make the assumption that all customers will pay their bills on time. They forget to count their own salaries into the projection and tend to pay their own bills inconsistently."

To get around such problems, Douglas

recommends setting aside a time each day to record all expenses. Information on sales, inventory and cash should be at an owner's fingertips at all times. Two critical indicators of the company's cash position are average receivables (which shows how fast the firm is collecting on sales) and how often inventory turns over (which helps project cash needs for the future and tells whether the cash actually is making money for the firm). Keeping abreast of such issues should be considered part of the small-business owner's job description.

If juggling all these balls in the air at once seems like an impossible feat, a few conversations with those who have made it will rekindle the enthusiasm of any entrepreneur. In Las Vegas, Hal Schuster has built Pioneer Books into a worldwide publishing operation, specializing in books on animation, movies and television. Schuster has developed a critical eye for cash flow, resulting in a series of business practices that keep his firm sound. Among them: Pioneer Books maintains no formal offices and has no employees other than Schuster. The company outsources its work, publishes on demand

rather than by projection and avoids all business loans from banks.

The move to an information-based economy and advances in computing power have made such a paradigm possible. "People still think in terms of large corporations with numerous employees," says Schuster, "but they're describing the 1950s, not the 1990s. The idea of employees is an outmoded concept. I think people who have economic loyalty to themselves are more independent and productive."

Couple this emerging business trend with today's computer muscle, throw in skillful management of capital, and a small business can succeed. Smart owners keep their companies lean, capitalize them from within and never outstrip their cash flow. They bill immediately, act promptly on overdue accounts, and rent or lease equipment rather than owning it.

Paul and Sarah Edwards have seen it work, and for them, the issue is beyond doubt: "Cash flow is to your livelihood what breath is to life. If the cash doesn't keep flowing, your business doesn't keep going."

PERSONAL ENTERPRISE

Strike It Rich In the Information Gold Mine.

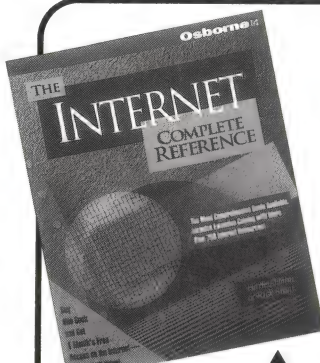
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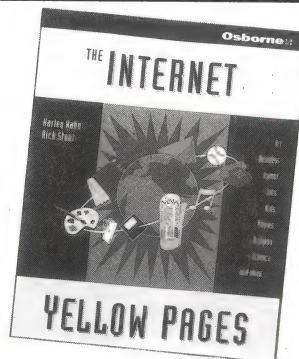
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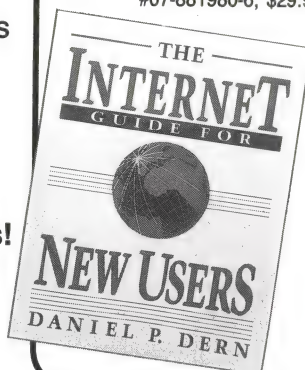
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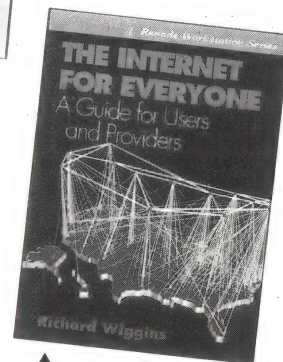
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Read More About It

For advice and information on managing cash flow, search Magazine Database Plus and Business Database Plus using the keywords CASH FLOW or CASH MANAGEMENT. The following are some of the articles you'll find:

MAGAZINE DATABASE PLUS (GO MAGDB)

"Will It Be a Good Year?" (spreadsheet model for cash flow), *Home Office Computing*, December 1993. Reference #A14756837.

"Money In, Money Out" (managing cash flow), *Inc.*, March 1993. Reference #A13511383.

"The Weekly Cash-Flow Planner" (cash-flow forecasting), *Inc.*, June 1992. Reference #A12284141.

BUSINESS DATABASE PLUS (GO BUSDB)

"Time-Tested Strategies from an Old Lion" (advice from a veteran cash management specialist), *Corporate Cashflow Magazine*, January 1994. Reference #A14982469.

"Battlefield Perspectives" (three executives' cash management techniques), *Inc.*, January 1994. Reference #A14870051.

"Five Signs of a Snafu" (factors that identify a cash management system in trouble), *Inc.*, January 1994. Reference #A14866217.

"When Is It Time to Retune Your Cash Flow System?" *Corporate Cashflow Magazine*, December 1993. Reference #A14864507.

"The Virtual Treasury: Technologically-Assisted Cash Management," *Corporate Cashflow Magazine*, November 1993. Reference #A14585658.

"By-the-Minute Monitoring" (cash flow management by mainframe computer software manufacturer Allen Systems, Naples, Florida), *Inc.*, June 1993. Reference #A13800304.

"Forecasting Operating Cash Flow: Evidence on the Comparative Predictive Abilities of Net Income and Operating Cash Flow from Actual Cash Flow Data," *Mid-Atlantic Journal of Business*, June 1993. Reference #A14362517.

"Better Cash Management" (payment lockboxes and controlled-disbursement accounts for growing firms), *Inc.*, May 1993. Reference #A13704680.

"Try Better Management of That Cash Flow" (cash management strategies for small businesses), *The Kansas City Business Journal*, Feb. 26, 1993. Reference #13571824.

"Ten Steps to Positive Cash Flow Develop and Escalation Protocol," *Business Credit*, February 1993. Reference #A14171565.

"Smart Ways to Manage Cash," *Nation's Business*, August 1992. Reference #A12505528.

"20 Keys to Credit Cash Flow and Profit Improvement" (credit management questions), *American Paint & Coatings Journal*, June 22, 1992. Reference #A12697057. 

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The Power to Say No

► Ways to pass on surplus clients and projects fairly and gracefully.

Most small and home-based businesses dream of having too many clients or projects, yet what happens when that day really comes? Sleeplessness, anxiety and exhaustion, say many CompuServe members. Opportunity, say others. While overload may not strike often, your reputation (and often your physical and mental health) rides on how you handle it.

When Debbie Dewey, president of Executive Project Service in Fairport, New York, and an assistant sysop in the Working From Home Forum (GO WORK), launched her administrative project management business seven years ago, she sometimes worked 48 hours straight to meet client deadlines. The long hours were necessary for building her client list, but now that her business is established, she monitors projects carefully to avoid such overload. Her first warning signs of too much work are declining effi-

ciency and an inability to concentrate.

Occasional bouts of marathon work are normal, veteran independent professionals agree. When they become the rule rather than the exception, however, something is wrong. Workload management is the key.

Free-lance writer Philip E. Courtney of Bushkill, Pennsylvania, recalls his first years in business as being either feast or famine—neither of which allowed him to sleep. Most of his work, however, came from a handful of corporate clients. Determined to preserve his sanity, Courtney met with company project managers to plan his assignments months, sometimes years, in advance. "Instead of being just the writer responsible for producing copy and articles, I became involved with the development of these plans," he explains. He then set up monthly retainer fees and regular deadlines. As a result, he can plan major projects well enough to leave time for new, unex-



Plans ahead for balance: Courtney

pected jobs.

Alas, most small, service-oriented businesses don't have Courtney's pool of dependable large clients to make workload management so straightforward.

Most businesspeople, when they are buried knee-deep in projects and a potential client calls with a job, are too afraid to decline the assignment, worried they'll sever a promising relationship.

Ottawa, Ontario, resident and free-lance writer and editor Laura Paquet of the Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM) sums up this dilemma: "Because last summer was so slow," she says, "I find I'm like a squirrel storing up nuts."

But Janetta Smith, a computer consultant from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, points out that not refusing a job when you're too busy to devote adequate time to it is as potentially dangerous as burning bridges when you do turn down assignments. "If you become overloaded, your work gets sloppy, you get cranky and you don't complete the work in the same way you would if you had more time."

Before accepting or rejecting an assignment, evaluate whether you and the job are a good fit. Gerry J. Elman, an intellectual property lawyer in Media, Pennsylvania, and a section leader in the Working From Home Forum, also is "terrified of turning down clients" because he never knows when work might dry up. But the attorneys at his firm have realized that they can handle certain kinds of work expertly and efficiently, while some clients might be better served elsewhere. "The ideal lawyer to refer work to would be someone with complementary but not competitive skills, if local to us, or someone with similar skills, if geographically distant from us but close to the prospective client," Elman says.

Michele McCormick of Fair Oaks, California, observes that not all new business is worthwhile. "In some cases, a client is just too small" for her public relations agency, she

continued on Page 36

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Forum Advice: Workload-Related Uploads

Professional forums, including the ones listed here, are a good source of advice on workload management and handling various sticky client situations.

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS' FORUM (GO CONSULT)

Discuss professional problems, contracts and dealing with clients in Section 5, "Client Issues."

Going 9-to-5?—Message thread on turning down a job offer from a client while remaining a consultant for him or her. Library 5, "Client Issues," JOBOFF.THd (23,073 bytes).

Granting Guarantees—What to do if a client asks for a 20-hour-per-week, "my project is a priority" guarantee. Library 5, GUARNT.THd (13,676 bytes).

DESKTOP PUBLISHING FORUM (GO DTPFORUM)

Ask about pricing and client issues in Section 9, "Making Money w/DTP."

Hurrying Along—Why to charge higher fees for rush work and how much extra to ask for. Library 1, "Forum Transcripts," RSHFEE.TXT (17,981 bytes).

Up, Up and Away—Message thread on why and how to raise prices and keep clients. Library 15, "DTP Marketing," RAISE.TXT (32,748 bytes).

JOURNALISM FORUM (GO JFORUM)

Free-lancers trade advice about getting, taking and turning down assignments in Section 3, "Freelancers."

Pass the Job—Directory of names and electronic mail addresses of potential subcontractors or referrals. Library 3, "Freelance," FLANCE.DIR (43,962 bytes).

Cut Billing Time—Article from *Freelance Success* newsletter on how to cut the time you spend billing clients for phone expenses by 75 percent. Library 4, "Journalism Tools," PHONE.TIP (3,380 bytes).

LEGAL FORUM (GO LAWSIG)

Increasing your productivity means you'll have time for additional clients. See Section 5, "Software/Automation," for related discussions.

The Automator—Back issues of *The Law Office Automator* newsletter are available in Library 0, "General Information." Search using keywords OFFICE AUTOMATOR.

Keeping Track—Individual client and billing management software adaptable to single practice, group practice or firm. Shareware. Library 5, "Software/Automation," LTB.ZIP (247,700 bytes).

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING FORUM (GO PRSIG)

Solicit advice on business and client issues in Section 1, "On Your Own."

Non-Payer Dilemma—Insights on how to handle slow-to-pay or no-pay clients. Library 1, "On Your Own," NOPAY.HLP (35,788 bytes).


Trading Pay for Equity—Should you give up fees for part ownership in a client's project? Library 1, EQUITY.THd (8,093 bytes).

WORKING FROM HOME FORUM (GO WORK)

Get "medicine" for your client-related headaches from members in Section 2, "Running a Business."

Full-Time Annoyance—What do you do if a client expects full-time hours for a part-time assignment? Library 2, "Business Info," HOURS.THd (38,819 bytes).

Client-Turned-Friend—Message thread on coping with a problem client who also has become a friend. Library 2, CLIENT.TXT (21,281 bytes).



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continued from Page 32

says. "I try to work with clients who will bring not just a few dollars but also an opportunity to help me grow the agency." The others she refers to a hungrier agency.

It gets trickier if you *do* want the client but are already inundated with assignments. The first step is to renegotiate the time frame. Dewey keeps one day a week free to handle emergency assignments, but she finds that most clients don't really need things done as quickly as they first specify. No client has ever refused her alternative deadlines, she claims.

But when deferring the job isn't possible, there are still several ways to keep the client happy, points out Ron Solberg, owner of a Chicago-based public relations and marketing firm and sysop of the PR and Marketing Forum (GO PRSIG). He suggests subcontracting as a realistic choice.

Los Angeles-based Independent Management Recruiter and Working From Home Forum member Stewart Morris sometimes subcontracts. He recommends making sure that the subcontractor is reliable (and good) and keeping tabs on the job. Morris points out that it isn't necessary to make much of a profit on a subcontracted job if it helps fulfill a client's requirements in a timely manner. "When it works, it's like expanding your capabilities and adding more hours to your

day. Just be sure to consider your management time when you quote the project price."

Telling the client about the subcontractor depends on the client's requirements. Some want to know while others don't. Morris sometimes uses a subcontractor to provide initial research then completes the project himself. Other professionals who subcontract point out that telling the client may well depend on whether your business is seen as a single professional or a "shop" that provides services.

Full-fledged subcontracting can require extensive management, however, and puts your reputation on the line for someone else's work. Another approach Solberg advocates is becoming a consultant on a project.

Mark Smallwood, a Burlingame, California, resident whose company creates hypertext help systems, endorses this approach. When a client approached him with a large project, he refused because another job had locked up his time, but he offered to consult in his area of expertise. The client contracted with another writer, bringing Smallwood in periodically for expert consultations. "It established my credibility with the client for future work. I made a good contact to whom I could refer or subcontract in the future, and the client saw me as a professional with integrity," Smallwood says.

"Everybody wins."

The step beyond subcontracting or consulting is to give the work away—through a referral, preferably to a colleague who will reciprocate. Software consultant Rawson Groves Hobart of Fremont, California, found that he was better able to manage work flow when he found another consultant with complementary skills. "Usually if I'm busy, she's slow and vice versa. We also cover for each other's holidays."

Shelley Espinosa, who lives in Thornton, Colorado, and specializes in seminars for executive support staff, has a line she uses to send clients to her colleagues. Her strategy is to say, "You're special, and I want to give you the best service possible. In this instance, that would be to refer you to . . ."

Dewey finds it important to give potential clients alternative ways to address their problems. If she chooses not to take on a job, she sends the client to a competitor. "Referring them gives the client an option. It sends the message that I do care about their project, but I just can't fit it in."

The idea, she says, is to reject the job without rejecting the client. ☐

Patricia Harris and David Lyon are free-lance writers based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Their CompuServe User ID number is 75300,316.

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▼
Some People's Trouble with Attention

▼
ADD Forum & Other Resources, p.40

▼
Info-Age Scouting, p.42

▶ Staying focused on tasks at hand is life's challenge for those who have Attention Deficit Disorder.

Dave deBronkart remembers the day his fifth-grade teacher phoned his mother and delivered an ultimatum: Either young Dave would complete all late reading assignments by the end of the school year or he wouldn't go on to the next grade. Translation: He had one month to write 20 book reports, and they'd better be good.

Hopeless at slow, steady work but a top performer under pressure, deBronkart focused his attention, churned out a report a day, met the deadline and advanced to sixth grade with his "A" average intact.

The incident makes sense to him now. Two years ago, at age 42, deBronkart learned he is one of possibly 20 million American adults who have Attention Deficit Disorder, a chronic neurological condition once thought to affect only children. The discovery was "like turning on a light bulb," says deBronkart of Salem, New Hampshire, a sysop in the Attention Deficit

Disorder Forum (GO ADD). Suddenly everything fit—his difficulty in tuning out distractions, his habit of bouncing from project to project, his lack of interest in repetitive tasks, even his inability to manage his checkbook in spite of scoring 800 on the math portion of the SAT.

Finding accurate information about ADD proved difficult, and the first book deBronkart bought on it contained false information. He quickly learned that controversy surrounds the disorder, which has been dubbed by some as the "fad disease of the '90s," and by others as a "convenient bucket" to dump a collection of symptoms linked to a variety of causes. Part of the problem is that symptoms of ADD resemble symptoms of other disorders, and they are almost unrecognizable in their mildest form. Diagnostic criteria and evaluation techniques are subject to discussion, and theories come and go. Many educators and health-care professionals still know little about ADD or about recent findings that point to a genetic cause.

Holly G. Miller is the author of 12 books and teaches communication at Indiana's Anderson University. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2345.

The ADD Forum fills the void for families hungry for facts.

"Now that doctors have identified the gene that is associated with ADD, they're saying that people are obviously born with it and have it until they die," explains Thom Hartmann, primary sysop of the ADD Forum and author of *Attention Deficit Disorder: A Different Perception* (Underwood-Miller, 1993). "The prevailing myth until 10 years ago was that children with ADD needed to be medicated through school and, once they became adults, they would grow out of it."

Adults, however, now are sitting in on their children's treatment sessions and recognizing themselves in the discussions. "I acted the same way when I was his age," a parent typically admits to the doctor. Then comes the insight: The parent realizes his or her symptoms are still present, but the behavior that causes havoc in the classroom—hyperactivity, boredom, risk taking, talkativeness—may be overlooked in some work settings. For example, persons who have ADD may have difficulty in a profession such as accounting but will excel as entrepreneurs, consultants, police officers or politicians. They thrive on variety, like to make their own decisions and enjoy challenges.

Hartmann believes his book is the first to present the idea that ADD is not a disorder, but rather a trait that involves personality and metabolism. Although he builds a positive case for living successfully with the disorder, Hartmann concedes that in some cases, ADD can create serious problems for those with its symptoms. Job hopping is common, relationships are difficult to sustain and criticism from non-ADD spouses centers on their mates' inattentiveness, failure to complete projects around the house and inability to manage money. "More and more adults are self-diagnosing, then going out and seeking help," says Hartmann.

"ADD is an invisible disorder," agrees Jeff Larcomb, a student at The Ohio State University who recently started a campus support group. "You can't tell that we have it by looking at us or talking with us. I cringe every time I'm forced to explain to a professor what ADD is." Some teachers are sympathetic when they hear that the reaction of an

adult with ADD to repetitive paperwork is boredom, then burnout. Professors may or may not understand that procrastination—a problem for most college students—is a "nightmare" for the ADD student, according to Larcomb. "I've received several responses that range from 'What is this guy trying to pull?' to 'Gosh, that must be rough. College is hard enough without having *that* thrown in.'"

Larcomb dropped out of school twice before his diagnosis. Now, determined to finish his degree, he's learned to adjust to the demands of the disorder. He schedules his classes with care, tries to avoid two-hour sessions that have no breaks and gives special attention to the sequence of subject matter because ADD-affected people require novelty and newness.

"I can take two classes back-to-back with little trouble if the classes are topically unrelated," says Larcomb. If the content of the classes is too similar, he loses concentration, a dilemma that is hard to explain to skeptics who argue that school isn't meant to be fun and that he should just knuckle down and do the work. "The difference for me is that I can't 'knuckle down,' no matter how much I want to," he explains.

When Larcomb requested information about ADD from his doctors and later from Ohio State's Office of Disability Services, he was frustrated by their replies. His doctors "just shrugged and said there wasn't anything available."

Hartmann experienced similar frustration when his son was diagnosed. The doctor, obviously short on information and tact, told

young Justin that the disease used to be called "minimum brain damage" because it was considered a brain disease. Witnessing the consequent devastation of his son's self-esteem, Hartmann embarked on what he now calls "a yearlong research binge." He conducted hundreds of interviews, read thousands of papers and emerged thoroughly up-to-date on the disorder. That knowledge is now shared in the ADD Forum, which he launched a year ago.

Janie Bowman, a non-ADD adult in an otherwise all-ADD family, is an active forum member who frequently taps online professionals for suggestions and information for the ADD newsletter she edits in Olympia, Washington. She marvels that the forum beat the news media in announcing the landmark Supreme Court decision in favor of an ADD student who was denied an appropriate special-education program by her school district. The quick online review of the case was the work of forum member Peter Wright, the attorney representing the student. Wright is one of several experts who actively participate in conferences and in the message sections. Others include Dr. Dale Hammer-schmidt, associate professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota, and Hal Meyer, a member of the board of directors of Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders and co-founder of Ch.A.D.D. of New York City.

"I may well owe the rest of my life to the ADD Forum," says Ed Dalton of East Hartford, Connecticut, who recognized that he needed professional help after watching a segment about ADD on the television show *20/20*. Discouraged by his first appointment with a health-care professional who offered no formal evaluation, he logged on to Compu-Serve, found the ADD Forum and read numerous files on how ADD affects adults. By his next appointment, he was prepared with a list of questions that went far beyond the scope of the professional's expertise. He was referred to a specialist and today is "on medication and beginning to get some order into my life."

For some adults with ADD, diagnosis and information are enough. For others, such as Dalton, short-term or long-term use of pre-

ADD Forum Offers Free Week

Want to learn more about Attention Deficit Disorder? Take advantage of the ADD Forum's (GO ADD) free week, June 16-23, when the forum will be free of connect-time charges. The forum's message sections and libraries are packed with information about diagnosing and living with ADD and more.

Read More About It: ADD Forum and Other Resources

The news that millions of children and adults may have symptoms of ADD has sparked a deluge of articles about the disorder. Before embarking on a crash course in ADD, narrow your search by asking yourself two questions: First, is your focus on children or on adults? Second, how much do you already know about the disorder? Some material—particularly articles published in popular magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and *Ladies Home Journal*—is light in tone and general in facts. If you're past the introductory level, read the in-depth articles published in journals such as *Exceptional Children* and *JAMA, The Journal of the American Medical Association*, available in Health Database Plus. *Tip:* When searching forum libraries and magazine files, give priority to the most recent entries; ADD research is unfolding at a rapid clip and new theories surface frequently.

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER FORUM (GO ADD)

Tell-Tale Signs—A list of 14 behavioral signs that point to an Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder diagnosis. Library 4, "Diagnosing ADD," DSM.TXT (2,781 bytes).

Cause and Effects—A brief discourse on the definition of ADD, its probable causes, symptoms and treatment. Library 4, ADDDEF.TXT (5,166 bytes).

ADD Primer—Easy-to-understand answers to basic questions such as, What is ADD? What causes it? What are the treatment options? Library 4, DIGNOS.TXT (14,629 bytes).

Parenting Tips—Discusses the developmental stages of the disorder from infant, toddler, preschool and elementary-school child. Library 2, "Parenting Issues," ADDTMT.TXT (12,587 bytes).

Doctors' Orders—An in-depth explanation of the various medications that may be prescribed to treat ADD and ADHD in adults; covers antidepressants and stimulants and explains possible responses and side effects. Library 6, "Therapy/Medication," PHARM.TXT (20,648 bytes).

Happy Ending—First-person account of an adult with ADD whose diagnosis and treatment have resulted in a happier, better-organized life. Library 7, "Adult ADD," ADLTEY.TXT (7,917 bytes).

Support Groups—A list of national Adult ADD support groups and spouse support groups. Library 12, "Support Groups," NATLST.TXT (7,128 bytes).

Ch.A.D.D.—A list of phone numbers of Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders groups in the United States. Library 12, TELS.TXT (23,423 bytes).

Media Kit—To be shared with local media, this kit contains background on ADD plus information on diagnosis, treatment, parenting and classroom issues, adults with ADD, and legal rights and services. Library 12, PRKIT.TXT (39,557 bytes).

Know Your Rights—Short list of questions frequently asked by parents considering legal action against a school district for failing to provide appropriate education for a special-ed child. Library 16, "Legal & Advocacy," FAQ.TXT (4,352 bytes).

Landmark Decision—Review of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that ensures appropriate and free special-education programs for ADD students who need them. Library 16, CASTER.TXT (9,034 bytes).

DISABILITIES FORUM (GO DISABILITIES)

All About ADHD—Everything you ever wanted to know about Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and then some. An excellent introduction for parents whose children have recently been diagnosed, this article moves from definition to diagnosis and from medication to behavior therapy. Library 4, "Learning Disabilities," AD-HD.TXT (38,255 bytes).

EDUCATION FORUM (GO EDFORUM)

Edison Trait—Dave deBronkart gives ADD a positive spin while building a good case for renaming the disorder the "Edison trait," after the creative genius who bounced from invention to invention. Library 4, "Sp Ed/Gifted/LD/ADD," EDISON.TXT (7,895 bytes).

Overlooked ADDults—A Harvard Medical School professor offers a comprehensive look at adults who were not diagnosed with ADD in childhood because their conditions were mild or their strengths helped them compensate. Library 4, RATEY.TXT (25,558 bytes).

HEALTH DATABASE PLUS (GO HLTDDB)

"Educational Assessment of Students with Attention Deficit Disorder," *Exceptional Children*, October-November 1993. Reference #A14642507. Geared to readers with a substantial knowledge of ADD, this is one of several articles contained in a special issue devoted to ADD and published by the official journal of the Council for Exceptional Children.

"Pay Attention: Hyperactivity Isn't Just for Children Anymore," *American Health*, September 1993. Reference #A13286053. Persons who can't sit still, hate to wait in line and are derailed by the slightest distraction may identify with the adults profiled in this article.

"Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder," *JAMA, The Journal of the American Medical Association*, May 12, 1993. Reference #A13942253. This exchange of views gives readers a sample of the disagreement among doctors about the diagnosis and treatment of hyperactive children.

MAGAZINE DATABASE PLUS (GO MAGDB)

"The Life-shifters: People Who Can't Stick to Anything," *Cosmopolitan*, October 1993. Reference #A14430967. Charmingly flaky or dangerously impulsive? The behavior of female adults with ADD is compared with the actions of non-ADD colleagues.

"Why Can't Your Husband Sit Still?" *Ladies Home Journal*, September 1993. Reference #A14181329. Criteria for diagnosis and strategies for coping are included in this overview.


"Hyperactive Heredity," *Time*, April 19, 1993. Reference #A13638030. This brief update on research conducted by the National Institutes of Health probes the link between hormones and hyperactivity.

scribed medication helps correct old problems. "People often say, upon joining the forum and reading the diagnostic checklists, 'OK, now what do we do?'" explains Dave deBronkart. For some, the correct route is an evaluation by a qualified professional. Then, once a diagnosis is made, the doctor may prescribe medication such as Ritalin and suggest counseling sessions. Extensive files in the forum library support the treatment process by offering

background information about medications and practical tips on how to manage ADD.

DeBronkart decided to enter therapy to learn to harness his concentration, ignore distractions and complete important tasks. His goal was to take medication only until new behavior patterns replaced old ones. "Conventional wisdom told me that ADD is a biological thing and that I would need medication for the rest of my life," he says. "But I had this idea that I could

use medication like training wheels to gain experience in going from Point A to Point B without falling off."

His strategy has worked. Off medication for more than a year, deBronkart now is well aware when distractions threaten to tug him off course and cause him to lose his balance. "It's difficult to describe what it feels like to get past a moment like that," he says, "to feel yourself coming back—upright—and sticking to the task." 

RANDOM ACCESS

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, red tie, and straw hat is reclining on a thick palm tree branch. He is barefoot and holding a black suitcase. The background shows a tropical beach with white sand and turquoise water under a clear blue sky. The palm tree's fronds are large and green, framing the scene.

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Space-Age Cadets

▶ Scouting is life prep for the Info Age, not just knots and cookies.

Adults who sign up as Boy Scout and Girl Scout volunteers often do so after rekindling memories of their own Scout camping-cookies-crafts experiences. More often than not, however, they discover that scouting today isn't what it used to be. Camping very likely takes place in a shopping mall or science center, and badges are earned in computers, aerospace and puberty.

The volunteer's job also has changed. In many ways, it's more difficult. Today's leaders must plan projects that appeal to the MTV generation, while facing tighter constraints on time and finances.

Because of this, many Scout volunteers are looking online for help. They're combing CompuServe's resources for project ideas, specialized information, ways to connect with Scouts worldwide and moral support.

When Merry Edenton-Wooten, who runs the arts and crafts section of a Cub Scout day camp in Pensacola, Florida, needs ideas for inexpensive crafts that kids can create in an hour, she visits the Crafts Forum (GO CRAFTS). She leaves a query with a specific request, but the libraries also hold instructions on crafts perfect for small hands, such as building a solar-powered cooker for dyeing

yarn and fabric outdoors (Library 3, "Spinning," SOLAR.TXT) and transferring a still-wet image on Polaroid film to cloth or paper (Library 8, "Paper/Stamping," FILM.THD).

"The greatest challenge is keeping costs at a minimum, but the crafts at a level that will maintain interest and enjoyment," Edenton-Wooten says. She also gathers ideas in the Pets/Animal Forum (GO PETSFORUM), such as making treats for wild birds.

Seeking fun camp activities, Scott Pennington, program director for Camp Barstow in the Indian Waters Boy Scout Council of Columbia, South Carolina, turned to the Scouting section of the Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORS). "Last summer was my first year in that position," he says, "so I asked the forum members for ideas. The response was incredible. I got songs, skits, games and even suggestions for helping my instructors teach difficult or off-the-wall merit badges."

When helping his Scouts earn weather merit badges, Pennington let his troop view the weather maps and forecasts on Compu-



Eagle Scout Award

Serve. "We downloaded a GIF and made printouts that they used to track weather movements. We also could tell what nights would be clear enough for the astronomy class to take to the field," he says.

San Antonio, Texas, co-leaders Pat and Gail Stark-weather let their troop of Webelos, 9- and 10-year-old Boy Scouts, use a computer and modem to complete their Communicator Achievement Award. They used the news, weather, sports and reference sections of CompuServe's basic services, in

addition to two CD-ROM encyclopedias. "We prepared pretend situations in advance, an information scavenger hunt, then let the boys loose using WinCIM," says Pat.

Twenty Boy Scouts at the 1992 National Order of the Arrow Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, earned cinematography and journalism badges under the supervision of Ben Parker, a professional video producer and Oak Park, Illinois-based assistant scoutmaster. Along with six adults, they operated WOA-TV, the closed-circuit television program for the four-day event. "We assembled the team from all around the United States," Parker says. "We used CompuServe Mail to prepare for the event, including getting scripts written by a man in Ohio and plan-

Scout's Honor Roll: Online Areas of Interest

The official online home for Scouts/Guides is Section 2, "Scouting," of the Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORS). Leaders looking for help with badges or service projects, though, will discover information and assistance in many other forums. Here are online places leaders favor:

Astronomy Forum (GO ASTROFORUM)

—Campers check the section for celestial goings-on such as auroras and meteor showers. Shareware in Library 7, "Astronomy Software," helps both novice and experienced skywatchers understand what's up there by predicting satellite flyovers or charting and observing the heavens.

Collectibles Forum (GO COLLECTIBLES)

—Scouts have different badges for each collecting hobby, but they're all in one place on CompuServe. Discuss stamps, comics, coins, sports cards, books, autographs, music, dolls and figurines, and off-the-wall outings in the message sections. Did you know there are GI Joe doll conventions? Read 94JOES.TXT in Library 15, "Dolls & Figurines."

CompuServe Weather (GO WEATHER)

—Leaders taking troops spelunking, sailing or primitive camping rely on the 48-hour National Weather Service forecasts to make safety decisions. Scouts can work on weather badges with help from the satellite images, temperature data and other global meteorological information.

Crafts Forum (GO CRAFTS)

—Libraries hold mail-order resources, instructions and safety advice for jewelry-making, fiber arts, woodworking, ceramic and paper/stamping activities. Crafts suitable for Scouts include PAPER.THD (making paper) in Library 8, "Paper & Stamping"; DADCR.THD (father-child projects) in Library 13, "Focus"; and FRKNOT.TXT (friendship knotting) in Library 12, "All Other Crafts."

Also in Library 12, NABOW.THD discusses Native American bows.

Earth Forum (GO EARTH)—Troops or councils can find lots of ideas and resources for "eco-actions" in the message sections. They also can provide timely data on fuel consumption, acid rain, air pollution, soil erosion, even environmental jobs for Scouts earning badges.

Foreign Language Education Forum (GO FLEFO)

—Girl Scouts celebrate international sisterhood each February with "Thinking Day" festivities. Forum regulars are willing to supply phrases and songs in Eskimo, Italian or any other language. Libraries have software to help tutor children (and adults) in several languages.

Gardening Forum (GO GARDEN)

—The 17 libraries are a practical resource for badges that target nutrition, ecology, gardening, wildlife, cooking and outdoors art. Post a "help" message or do a library keyword search for information on a particular fruit, vegetable, tree, bulb, disease or pesticide. Gardening keeps a troop together over the long summer vacation, and GARDN1.ZIP, a software version of the book *The Best Organic Garden Manual*, in Library 11, "Tools/Books/Software," gets you started with a nine-point plan for better, healthier plants.

Ham Radio Forum (GO HAMNET)—Older Boy and Girl Scouts can earn badges for ham radio activities, and several forum members take part in the Boy Scouts' Jamboree of the Air. Library 7, "CW/Morse Code," holds tutorials on Morse code and CWFONT.SIT, a fun Morse code



ning physical arrangements with The University of Tennessee in Knoxville."

To find time for such projects, Parker searched the Outdoors Forum's Scouting library for a software package to handle the paperwork and records for the 72 boys in his troop. He downloaded Troop Tracker and Scoutmate, both PC-compatible shareware, and ran them side by side for a month on a trial basis. He chose Scoutmate, which for \$30 offered an easy interface, with menus and clear prompts for novices.

Slidell, Louisiana, Scout leader Wayne Herbert estimates that he and his wife, Pam, spend about 130 hours a month as leaders and council volunteers with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. It's almost a mission with them to help other leaders discover ways in which computers can streamline their tasks and make scouting more enjoyable for kids and adults alike. Recently they set up a booth at a New Orleans Area Council Pow Wow, a training event for Boy Scout leaders, and demonstrated troop management programs (they use Packmaster, a shareware program by Troopmaster Software Inc.), CompuServe, and graphics and desktop publishing programs.

Software for producing newsletters parents and Scouts actually will read is espe-



Junior Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. proficiency badges for health and fitness, video and computers.

cially popular, Wayne says. The Herberts use both Word for Windows and WordPerfect. When using WordPerfect, they import graphics done in New Print Shop and Print Shop Deluxe. "People send us blank diskettes and return postage, and we send them thousands of scouting graphics

that we've obtained over the years," he says. Wayne also shares Boy Scouts graphics by uploading them to the Outdoors Forum's Scouting library.

Scouts, called Guides in many countries, can be found worldwide, and leaders use the Information Service to communicate with fellow Scouts in faraway places. Gordon and Carolyn Greaves use CompuServe to stay in touch from the exotic island setting of Tembagapura, a town of 12,000 on Irian Jaya in New Guinea.

Gordon is British; Carolyn an Australian. Their 19 Scouts are American, Irish, Australian, Filipino and Indonesian and live on the

island only through eighth grade. Because there are no high schools there, youngsters must go home to complete their educations.

"We basically follow the Boy Scouts of America progression of Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos, then Boy Scouts,"

Gordon says. "Then, starting in sixth grade, we treat each individual country represented separately, as the boys soon will be heading for their home countries for school." This means having each boy follow the same regulations as Scouts in his home country. Girls are enrolled as Australian Scouts, he explains, because that country includes females in its program and the Greaves are officially chartered as leaders in Australia's Lone Scout program.

Tembagapura, which lies about 10 miles southwest of the 16,500-foot Puncak Jaya (Carstenz Peak), is home to such zoological rarities as the Great Tailed Triok, the Glacier Rat and a cave-dwelling bird called the Mountain Swiftlet. The Greaves' troop has hosted Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, who heads the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and biologists from around the Pacific region



Boy Scout Rank Insignia

font for the Mac. Library 0, "News & Help Files," has FETS.94, a list of "hamfests" and conventions, and HAMRAD.TXT, addresses for ham resources on the Internet. Library 1, "Your Ham License," offers study aids for FCC certification.

Investors' Forum (GO INVFORUM)—Older Scouts earn money management badges and have a say in spending troop funds. INV_TE.ZIP in Library 15, "The Novice Investor," has financial terms and definitions for beginners, and in Library 7, "Financial Planning/Taxes," ICALC.ZIP calculates interest on investments while PRICE.ZIP compares deals.

Living History Forum (GO LIVING)—Reenactors and history buffs here provide accuracy and plenty of color for local lore, women's history and folk art merit badges. Renaissance festivals, Civil and Revolutionary War reenactments, frontier rendezvous and British history events posted online are field trips Scouts will never forget.

Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORS)—Library 2, "Scouting," has GIFs that live up troop newsletters, including sketches by B-P (Lord Baden-Powell) himself. There are Pow-Wow handbooks, nondenominational prayer services, and

ceremonies adaptable for Boy or Girl Scout troops. Forum discussions range from thoughts on gays in the Boy Scouts of America to plans for building Pinewood Derby racers and notices of upcoming Camporees. Library 6, "Hunting," has "First, Catch the Critter" recipes for duck, goose, rabbit, squirrel and deer, and how-tos on campfire cooking with Dutch ovens.

Pets/Animal Forum (GO PETSFORUM)

—Pet care, wildlife and horseback-riding badges involve study, then hands-on experience with animals. Sections and libraries here are excellent resources at both stages. The libraries make a fun first "online project" for a telecommunications badge, because keyword searches by animal breed or topic (such as illness and diet) score a hit almost every time. There are files on iguanas, ferrets, tortoises, even baby possums.

Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM)—Advice on gear, technique, darkroom skills, even digitizing images is here for the Scout working on a camera badge. Instructional files and projects are available, including

PINHOL.TXT in Library 3, "Tips/Amateur & Pro," on how to make a pinhole camera.

Science/Math Forum (GO SCIENCE)—Need a recipe for colorful crystals? A way to demonstrate photosynthesis? Ask science teachers and other pros in the message sections or scan the libraries by topic. Library 0, "Student Area," contains MANIAC.ZIP, a shareware math drill; and Library 7, "Apple Science," has SCRAMB.BXY, shareware that makes science word games. SIMPEX.ZIP is a teacher's upload of simple biology experiments and FREEBI.NFO lists science freebies to send away for.



Scouting emblems (bottom, from left to right): German Scout association colorsign; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts pin design; "Rope Around a Fleur-de-Lis," the World Organization of the Scout Movement symbol; Boy Scouts Canada logo. Search for these and other Scouting emblem GIF images in the Outdoors Forum's Library 2, "Scouting."

who come to study these little-known creatures. The Scouts help capture and monitor the animals.

To conquer what he calls "the tyranny of distance" for his multinational troop, Gordon visits the Outdoors Forum's Scouting section for information and tools. He gets the lowdown on the Boy Scouts of America from many forum regulars and reaches out to CompuServe members in Ireland, Australia and Indonesia to get the information he needs for Scouts from those countries.

David Wynne, leader of a troop in Dublin, Ireland, helps the Greaves develop and maintain a separate identity for the Irish expatriates in the group. "I supplied details of the Irish Scout Law and Promise, and am working on arranging Lone Scout status for his kids," he explains. Wynne also uploaded to the library an Anglican prayer service and his troop's 75th anniversary songbook.

There are some variances between requirements for Irish Scouts and for Australian Scouts. Additionally, what is practical in

Ireland may not be practical in Australia. "One of the requirements for David's group is to spend a night at a youth hostel, which is a bit difficult here because the nearest one is 2,000 miles away," says Gordon. "Also, the Irish Scouts have a requirement for a bike hike. Again, it's a little difficult when we have only one kilometer of sealed road, and it's on a 24 degree slope!"

What goes around online comes around online. For his wife, Margaret, who runs a troop of Irish Brownies (girls age 7 to 9), Wynne obtained online a scanned image of the symbol for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout, traded costumed paper dolls with a U.S. leader and now is setting up penpal links with Girl Scouts in Florida. For his Scouts, he found copies of the Canadian Venture Scout Advisors handbook and the Boy Scouts of America fieldbook via his forum connections.

The Scouting section also is the site for discussion and debate of organizational policies, which can be a source of concern or confusion for some leaders. The Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations in the United States are divided into smaller councils, which oversee day-to-day operations and administration. When these individual councils incur severe or longstanding money problems, regional or national governing bodies decide what to do. Changes also occur because of shifting demographics or growth, but either way it can be stressful to individual leaders who must live with a top-down decision about their own councils.

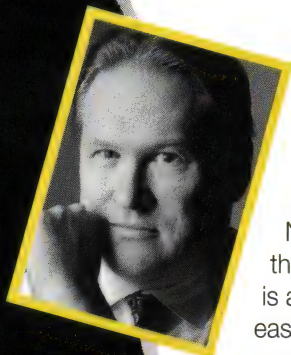
When Bob Swain was worried about a three-council merger proposed in his part of Florida, near St. Petersburg, he posted an open message in the Scouting section, asking for comments. What he had heard through the grapevine from similarly absorbed councils conflicted sharply with the reassurances he was hearing from Boy Scouts of America higher-ups.

Leaders in Illinois, Wisconsin and Kentucky wrote back describing their experiences. They talked about jurisdictional quarrels, lost records and inconvenience, but in the long run, each leader said, it was a far wiser use of manpower, finances and facilities. One council now is raising capital to build a new service center, with training and administrative facilities. Another was able to reorganize its camps into a primitive site, a Cub Scouts summer facility and an outdoor skills training center. All credited the positive attitude of the volunteers with the success of their mergers.

Of course, scouters will tell you that a positive attitude is what led Robert Baden-Powell to found the scouting movement in Britain almost 100 years ago. That, and the conviction that one Scout *can* make a difference, is what kept him—and keeps them—going strong today. ☐

Maura J. Mackowski is a free-lance business and high-tech writer in Hanover, Maryland. She spent 10 years in Girl Scouting and now leads two troops, Brownies and Juniors. Her CompuServe User ID number is 76004,2243.

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Downloadable Notables

Downloadable Notables is a monthly catalog of new and interesting uploads compiled by Associate Editor Christopher Galvin. You can suggest a file for mention by sending the full forum file description (including forum name, library, file name, size, title and summary) and a note explaining why it caught your fancy to CompuServe User ID number 71154,74. *Do not send the file itself or questions regarding listed files.* Many mentioned program files are shareware; view the full file description online for details and please support the shareware concept. If you cannot locate a file, check the forum's News Flash for late changes or post a message within the forum to *SYSOP asking for assistance.

From the Notables E-mailbag—Reaching right in, Louis Deschenes and Larry J. Lee both recommend an enhanced version of the phone script PHONE.SCR for DOS and Windows Information Manager (CIM) as well as CompuServe Navigator, Windows version. Deschenes calls it "very useful for testing and debugging your modem setup, including data correction and compression." Search the appropriate support forum (GO CIMSUP; GO WCIMSUP; GO CSNAVSUP) for file name: PHNBPS.ZIP (11,000-21,000 bytes).

Peter Royle recommends to DOS users Deadwood, a file manager with two TSRs that, after prolonged use, lets users view which files in each directory are used or unused (and ready for deletion). "The result can be megabytes of newly available disk space," he says. The utility is in the IBM Systems Forum (GO IBMSYS), Library 6, "File Utilities."

DEAD10.LZH (226,713 bytes).

Thomas Olsen suggests the UltiMOD Player for Windows, a 16-bit stereo player of MOD-format music files with LED output meter, auto repeat and other features. "This should be on everybody's 'gotta have' list," says Olsen. You'll find it in the Multimedia Forum (GO MULTIMEDIA), Library 2, "Video and Audio."

ULTIMO.ZIP (115,913 bytes).

Howard Eichenwald wishes to point readers to a DOS executable file containing sample tests and other information about the Institute for the Certification of Computer Professionals (ICCP). It's available in the General Computing Forum (GO GENCOM), Library 2, "ICCP."

ICCPSA.EXE (46,186 bytes).

Star Turns—Want to have images of your favorite celebrities and scenes from current and classic film and TV right on your desktop? Make the office crowd wonder where you got that shot of Jerry Seinfeld biting his Golden Globe award, or Tom Berenger and Charlie Sheen in *Major*

League II, or the super twosome of Teri Hatcher and Dean Cain from ABC's *Lois and Clark*. Browse the new Entertainment Drive Forum's (GO EDRIVE) Library 15, "Starstruck! & GIFs," the ShowBiz Forum's (GO SHOWBIZ) Library 9, "Color GIF Photos," and the Reuter News Pictures Forum's (GO NEWSPIX) Library 2, "United States GIFs," and Library 8, "United States JPEGs," especially after major Hollywood news events. As always, images are copyrighted and for personal use only.

Great DOS Graphics—Absolute must-sees in the IBM New Users Forum's (GO IBMNEW) Library 5, "Fun Graphics," are

Nicholas Centanni's "Night Bird," a real-time 3-D interactive animation of a white bird flying endlessly over a field of lights and evergreen trees, and "Virtual Winter," a similar animation that places you next to a decorated Christmas tree with snow falling and lets you move about the scene.

BIRD20.EXE (90,095 bytes);

WINT11.EXE (93,529 bytes).

Other great titles include EKG, which changes your screen to a beeping heart monitor; FiberOptics, a screensaver that emulates those color-cycling fiber "plants"; and the Windows Icon of Terror, which screams, breaks glass, and shoots insults.

EKG11.ZIP (33,389 bytes);

This Month's FILE CLUSTER

It's like riding through CompuServe on a word and a prayer—the File Cluster, which searches dozens of general-interest and hardware-specific forums' libraries using the same keyword. In June: This kind of chair and "listening" may mollify your mood, almost as much as the Lotto touch and such "money" of magnitude: EASY.

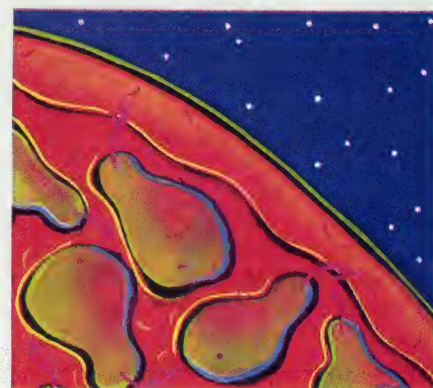
Astronomically Correct—This Mac program, AstrObjects, makes observations and predictions of astronomical objects' sky positions easy, with built-in Messier catalog and custom files. Astronomy Forum (GO ASTRONOMY), Library 7, "Astronomy Software," ASTRO.SIT (40,704 bytes).

Just Desserts—Lots of online recipes fall under the "easy to make" rubric, but these are sweetly summerish: an English chef's chocolate soufflé, a "fruit pizza" pie and a four-ingredient frozen lemon cake. Cook's Online Forum (GO COOKS), Library 5, "Desserts and Sweets," SOUFFL.TXT (1,107 bytes); FRUZZA.TXT (910 bytes); and ICECAK.TXT (975 bytes).

Whistle Stop—This popular GIF file includes drawings showing how to make a whistle, good for Boy Scout or 4-H activities. Crafts Forum (GO CRAFTS), Library 11, "Wood-working," WHSTLE.GIF (12,503 bytes).

Quark Add-on—Lepton EasyOpen is an XTension for QuarkXPress for Windows 3.1 and higher versions which lists the 10 most recently saved documents at the bottom of the File menu for quick access. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 6, "PC DTP Utilities," EASYOP.ZIP (27,364 bytes).

Mac Aid—Instructions on how to use the Apple Macintosh system software to modify keyboard use and the viewable screen type using Easy Access and Close View. Disabilities Forum (GO DISABILITIES), Library 10, "General Interest," SPCNDS.TXT (6,000 bytes).



Everybody into the Carpool—Easy Rider is an IBM/compatibles program geared to organizations wishing to carpool participants from their homes to a small number of destinations. Earth Forum (GO EARTH), Library 13, "CIS/Computers," CARPL1.ZIP (248,825 bytes) and CARPL2.ZIP (181,086 bytes).

Amortz—An easy-to-use DOS financial loan calculation system that will compute any of a loan's variables and generate printable payback schedules by year. Useful for "what if" calculations. *Entrepreneur's* Small Business Forum (GO USEN), Library 5, "Finance," AMOR15.EXE (112,033 bytes).

Learning English—It's not an easy language for foreign learners to master, observes one writer in this essay. Foreign Language Education Forum (GO FLEFO), Library 6, "English," EZ-ENG (6,674 bytes).

Shelve It—An article from the January 1992 *Family Handyman* describing five great shelving systems you can build, each unique in design and construction, and finishable in about one day. *Family Handyman* Forum (GO HANDYMAN), Library 4, "Remodeling," SHELVE.TXT (9,112 bytes).

E-Z Presentations—Create professional-looking desktop presentations and slide shows without scripts with EZSHOW for IBM/compatibles. Works with anything your screen can display; includes fades, delays, user flow control and many more features. Graphics Sup-

KRISTEN MILLER

FIBER1.ZIP (62,900 bytes);
TERROR.ZIP (146,376 bytes).

Rising Sun Uploads—Visit the Japan Forum (GO JAPAN) to find members around the world interested in Japanese culture and related files. Library 1, "NIFTY-Serve," has a list of users of NIFTY-Serve, CompuServe's Japanese counterpart, who wish to become penpals, with an example of sending mail to the service.

NIFPP.TXT (28,012 bytes).

Library 3, "Travel," includes a description of using the Japan Rail Pass and information on "sleeping cheap" in Tokyo's Tsukasa Weekly Mansions.

port Forum (GO GRAPHSUP), Library 14, "Misc. Util & Code," EZSHOW.EXE (63,743 bytes).

Is Love Easy?—Should you have to "work" toward a good relationship, or should love just happen naturally? Such was the topic of this 1991 thread. Human Sexuality Open Forum (GO HSX100), Library 1, "Dear Janis O.," WORK.THD (26,776 bytes).

Easy Project—Popular project management shareware for planning, scheduling and tracking all kinds of projects. Includes Gantt charts and extensive reporting. IBM Applications Forum (GO IBMAPP), Library 6, "Business Apps," EZPROJ.EXE (220,120 bytes).

Coloring Book—Excellent DOS program with 10 pictures (35 in registered version) to be colored and printed. Requires VGA and Microsoft-compatible mouse. IBM New Users Forum (GO IBMNEW), Library 5, "Fun Graphics," CBOOK1.ZIP (201,221 bytes).

Find Directory—Does what it says, with Exact Match option and configurability to skip CD-ROM and network drives. Changes directories and drives fast, with unlimited subdirectories. IBM Systems Forum (GO IBMSYS), Library 1, "DOS Utilities," FINDIR.ZIP (18,372 bytes).

Kids' Book Writing—A how-to text explaining the writing Easy Reader children's books, from a newsletter dedicated to the topic. Literary Forum (GO LITFORUM), Library 4, "YouthLit/ Learning," EZREAD.CBI (7,052 bytes).

TidBITS Reader—EasyView is a browser for structured text files, most notably the sextet format files that the electronic magazine TidBITS uses. Macintosh D Vendor Forum (GO MACDVEN), Library 5, "TidBITS Magazine," EV232.SIT (140,672 bytes).

QuickTime Lists—EasyPlay is a QuickTime application for Macs that catalogs all your movie and picture files and plays them. Controllable by Apple Events. Macintosh Systems Forum (GO MACSYS), Library 12, "QuickTime," EZPLAY.SEA (87,424 bytes).

JRPASS.TXT (6,989 bytes);
TSUKAS.TXT (5,827 bytes).

Library 5, "Software PC & Other," includes the KanjiWORD for Windows demo, allowing the creation and printing of Japanese documents with an English-to-Japanese dictionary, and CCI Kanji for Fun!, a Windows concentration game with sound that teaches Grade 1 Kanji.

KW4WIN.EXE (3,122,857 bytes);
CCI.EXE (164,518 bytes).

Library 17, "Everything Else!," features a listing of English-language BBSes in Japan, with details on how to log on to CompuServe while there.

Peaceful, Easy Feeling—A MIDI rendition of the classic Eagles tune, with pitch-wheel guitar and an attempt to duplicate the three-part harmony with brass patches. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 10, "MIDI Song Files," PEFMID.ZIP (27,893 bytes).

Voice Blaster—A DOS program for use with Sound Blaster cards that allows you to queue up any combination of digitized audio (VOC) and FM music (CMF) files, record any-length VOC files and select the input channel and volume controls. Multimedia Forum (GO MULTIMEDIA), Library 1, "General Information," VBLAST.ZIP (116,444 bytes).

Catch of the Day, All Year—Fishing fans will like this: more than 300 recipes for preparing all kinds of the finned creatures, including quick dinners, gourmet specialties and ethnic dishes. Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORS), Library 5, "Fishing," FISH.ZIP (89,019 bytes).

Camera Buys—Don Hinds' recommendations for purchasing one of this year's crop of point-and-shoot cameras, along with 1993's list of suggestions. Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM), Library 2, "Cameras & Lenses," P&S94.TXT (18,432 bytes).

Travel Talk—A transcript of a 1992 conference discussing use of the EAASY SABRE online airline reservation system, hosted by Bernie Tjarks. Travel Forum (GO TRAVSIG), Library 0, "General Interest," SABRE.CO (14,098 bytes).

As Easy As—Latest version of the popular shareware DOS spreadsheet. Includes full macro language and 13 graph types. U.K. Shareware Forum (GO UKSHARE), Library 2, "Applications," ASEASY.ZIP (303,000 bytes).

Short Circuits—EasySim is a digital electronics simulator for Windows 3.x and NT, which helps you design and test small to medium-sized circuits before breadboarding or building. Emulate any logic function in seconds. Zenith Forum (GO ZENITH), Library 15, "Windows," EASYSM.ZIP (93,608 bytes).

JBBS.TXT (148,178 bytes).

Apps for Mac—Make a habit of visiting the Macintosh Applications Forum (GO MACAP) for the latest Mac tools. Library 2, "Word Processing," includes PenPal, a Word 5.x add-on that makes documents look truly handwritten.

PENPAL.SIT (120,192 bytes).

Library 3, "Databases," includes QuickSearch, which traverses files and folders looking for specified words or sentences.

QCKSEA.SEA (65,792 bytes).

Library 8, "Multimedia," has Guitar-Tuner's newest version, with eye-popping graphics that outperform similar hardware devices found in music stores.

GUITAR.SIT (40,064 bytes).

Library 9, "Graphics Tools," holds Before Dark, a nifty application for collecting and installing beautiful desktop patterns created by graphic designers, and GIF Slideshow, a GIF/TIFF/PICT/MacPaint file viewer with drag-and-drop and very fast processing.

BEDARK.SIT (74,880 bytes);

GIFSSH.SEA (88,832 bytes).

ASCII Art—Check the Quick Pictures Forum (GO QPICS) and its Library 16, "Text/ANSI Art," for a variety of small images created with ASCII characters, much like those macros used by some online CBers and perfect for sprucing up any e-mail message. Images include a flying F-16 Falcon, U.S. flag, Ford Mustang, champagne glass with bubbles, space shuttle, birthday cake, electric guitar and more. Search the library with the keyword ASCII.

WUGNETware—Advanced, professional Windows users should stop by the Windows Users Group Network Forum (GO WUGNET). The forum's sysops highlight a Shareware Pick of the Week and maintain a cache of "Superior Shareware" in Library 11, "WUGNET News/Files." Notable downloads there include an enrollment form for and information about WUGNET; Decay, a screen-melting screensaver; WinSetTime, a utility that synchronizes your system clock with the NIST atomic clock; a text-file spell-checker and 100,000-word dictionary; File Locker, a Windows-based file encryption program; and Bar Clock, a popular digital time/date display that lists free resources or memory in the title bar of the active window.

INFO.ASC (15,870 bytes);

DECAY.ZIP (33,000 bytes);

WSTIME.ZIP (61,467 bytes);

SPLCHK.EXE (248,502 bytes) and

SPLDIC.EXE (400,967 bytes);

WINLOC.ZIP (100,564 bytes);

WBARCL.ZIP (63,651 bytes).

Book Reviews

Following are summaries of book reviews available for reading this month in *Online Today*. To read the complete reviews, use the GO commands listed at the end of each summary.

Inside CompuServe: Authoritative Guide to Online Services

By Richard Wagner
New Riders Publishing, 1993
549 pages, \$16.95 (softcover)

Especially helpful to users of CompuServe Navigator and CompuServe Information Manager for Windows, this guidebook offers step-by-step instructions on using these programs to access CompuServe. Reviewer Michael Naver says it is designed to be readable and attractive with an effect he likens to "Windows on the page." *GO OLT-5700*

LaserJet 4: Typography and Graphics

By Ross Smith and Charles Stevenson
Random House Electronic Publishing, 1993
606 pages, \$45 (softcover includes a 3.5-inch diskette)

Essentially a written and illustrated demonstration of how to use the PCL5 language, this book tells how to get the most out of a LaserJet printer. Reviewer Harry Green says it is an excellent reference and is ideal for developers. *GO OLT-5730*

Computer Freebies (and Almost Freebies)

By Tom Rugg
Sybex, 1994
252 pages, \$14.99 (softcover)

Well-written and researched, this fun-to-read book offers the lowdown on where to find various computer-related goodies for little or no cash, says reviewer Robert Sanchez. *GO OLT-5720*

Dr. Daniel's Windows Diet: A Fast Cure for Your Windows Pains

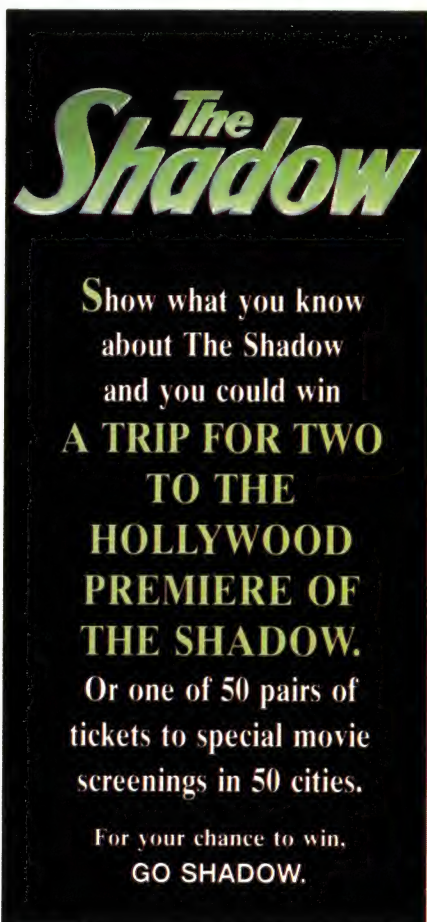
By Daniel Will-Harris
Peachpit Press, 1993
118 pages, \$8.95 (softcover)

If you find Windows more daunting than friendly, this compact, inexpensive book is just what the doctor ordered. A collection of useful tips that focus on the most important and common Windows problems, it does a great job of making readers Windows-literate in a short time, says reviewer Anthony Watkins. *GO OLT-5740*

Garage Virtual Reality: The Affordable Way to Explore Virtual Worlds

By Linda Jacobson
Sams Publishing, 1994
439 pages, \$29.95 (softcover includes a 3.5-inch diskette)

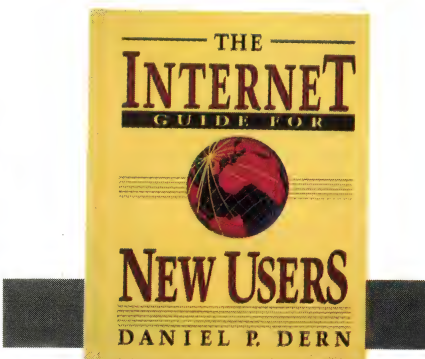
If text-based computing is a sturdy Chevy and multimedia is a sporty Mustang, then virtual reality is a supercharged Ferrari—fun to play with but unattainable. Right? This book says otherwise, proposing that virtual reality is available to the masses on a simple IBM PC, Mac or Amiga. Reviewer John Edwards says the book may not place a Ferrari on your desktop, but it's fun to zip through its pages. *GO OLT-5760*



Show what you know about The Shadow and you could win A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE OF THE SHADOW.

Or one of 50 pairs of tickets to special movie screenings in 50 cities.

For your chance to win, GO SHADOW.



The Internet Guide for New Users

By Daniel P. Dern
McGraw-Hill, 1994
570 pages, \$40 (hardcover), \$27.95 (softcover)

Packed with nitty-gritty facts on the behemoth Internet system, this reference book offers plain-English explanations of how and where to find information, addresses and mailing lists. Although the writing is a bit choppy, reviewer Richard A. Danca deems it a useful tool. *GO OLT-5710*

The Little PC Book

By Lawrence J. Magid
Peachpit Press, 1993
376 pages, \$17.95 (softcover)

Aimed directly at the raw beginner, this book is written in a light, humorous style, peppered generously with screen captures and clever cartoons that cover the rock-bottom basics of using an IBM-compatible computer, says reviewer William J. Lynott. *GO OLT-5750*



Multimedia Power Tools

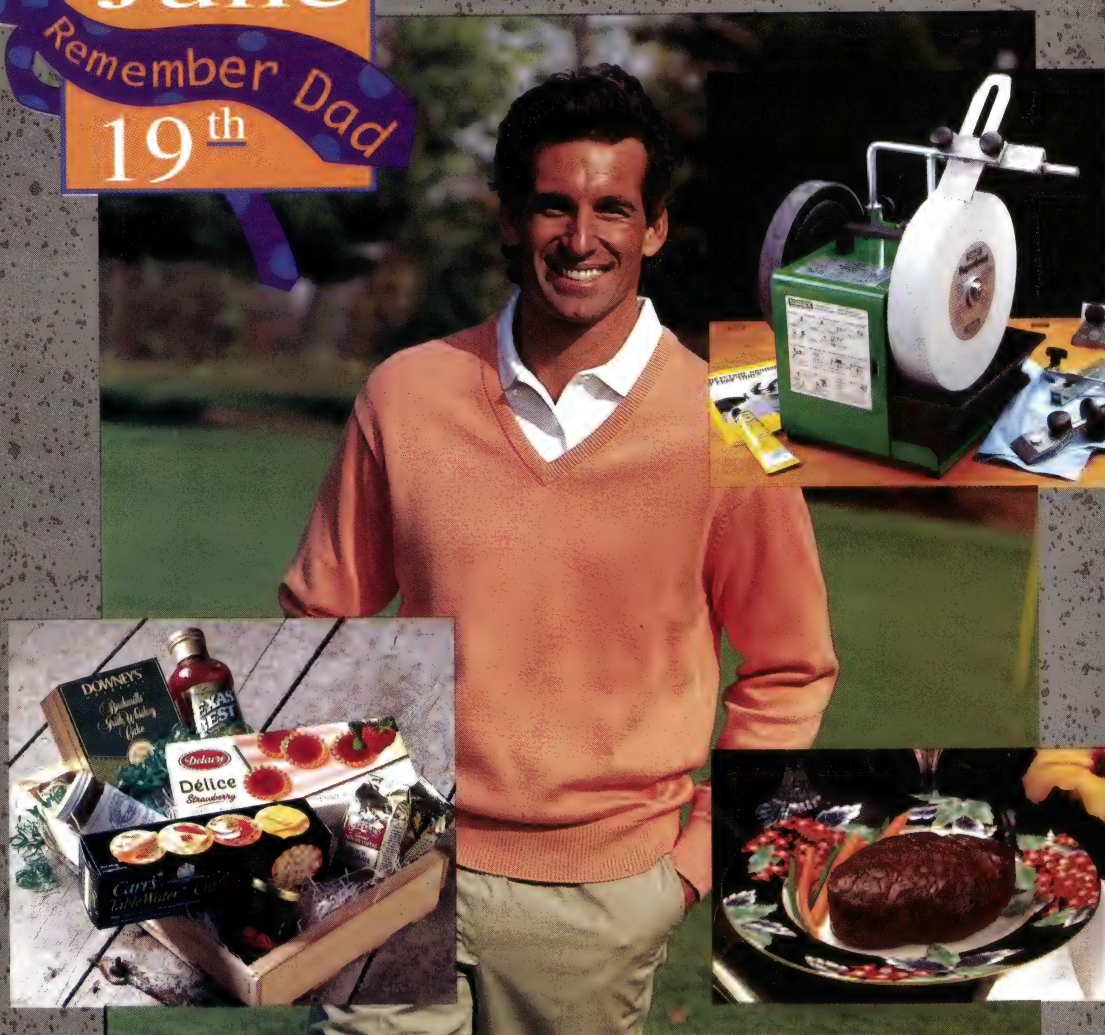
By Peter Jerram and Michael Gosney
Random House, 1993
608 pages, \$50 (softcover with one Macintosh-formatted CD-ROM)

Calling this the best multimedia book he has ever read, reviewer Anthony Watkins says it offers everything: a brief history lesson, product reviews, commentary and descriptions of applications showing what's possible with this emerging medium. *GO OLT-6000*

THE ELECTRONIC M·A·L·L®

JUNE 1994

June
Remember Dad
19th

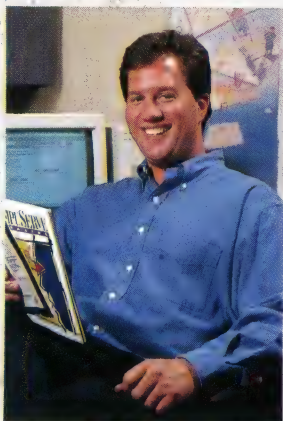


FREE SHIPPING 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR

Remember Dad With a Gift From The Mall!

Win a \$1,000 Online Shopping Spree at the New Mall! See Page 7

Play The Mall's "Great Escapes," See Pages 10 - 11



Dear Mall Shopper:

The season's changing and it's time to get away! To celebrate, we're launching The Mall's "Great Escapes" celebration — a variety of contests, savings, fun and prizes, sponsored by Electronic Mall merchants. For details, see pages 10 + 11. **GO ESCAPES**

The New Mall's Grand Opening contests continue, too. Just by visiting the New Mall and taking the online survey, you could win a \$1,000 Shopping Spree or an exciting "Mystery Door" Prize. See page 7 for details.

And, don't forget Father's Day is June 19th in the U.S.! We've lined up some great gift ideas this month.

We also welcome five new Electronic Mall merchants — Premier Dining (**GO DINE**), Express America Mortgage (**GO EAM**), Cadillac Motor Car (**GO CADILLAC**), FTD ONLINE (**GO FTD**) and Fortune Book Club (**GO FCB**). You can visit these new stores — and any Mall store — connect-free, 24 hours a day!

See you online,

Keith Arnold

Keith Arnold
Manager, The Electronic Mall



June

Remember Dad

19th

Keep Dad cool in this Sea Island Cotton V-Neck Sweater from Brooks Brothers.

This versatile sweater is fully fashioned of soft, lustrous Sea Island cotton, a true luxury yarn. Traditional Brooks Brothers quality. Sporty colors: ocean blue, navy, pool green, tangerine or citrus. Sizes 38 to 48. International delivery.

BROOKS BROTHERS. GO BR
SEA ISLAND COTTON SWEATER \$70

Give Dad an "edge" with the Swedish Tormek SuperGrind Grinder.

Your favorite craftsman can keep all his tools razor sharp with this superb grinder from Garrett Wade. A 2-in. wide artificial grindstone runs in a bath of cool water to prevent heat build-up. A complete system with optional jigs for knives, axes, scissors, carving tools, more. Carrying handle included.

GARRETT WADE WOODWORKING. GO GW
SWEDISH TORMEK 2004 GRINDER \$369

Surprise Dad with a crate full of gourmet treats and save \$6!

Serve up a hearty helping of delicious favorites to celebrate his Day. He'll love Downey's Irish Whiskey cake, Coryell's jam, Blue Crab horseradish mustard, sweet and sour gourmet barbecue sauce, two 2-oz. packs of Superior gourmet coffee, fruit cookies and Carr's crackers. *On sale — Save \$6!*

THE GIFT SENDER. GO GS
FATHER'S DAY GIFT COLLECTION
REGULAR PRICE \$45
ON SALE \$39

**BEST
BUY!**



Save \$31 on the Waring Professional Kitchen Blender.

Whip up everything from delicious warm-weather coolers to popular health drinks with the Waring Professional Kitchen Blender. Heavy-duty, die-cast aluminum housing, two-speed commercial motor, heat-resistant 40-oz. glass container.

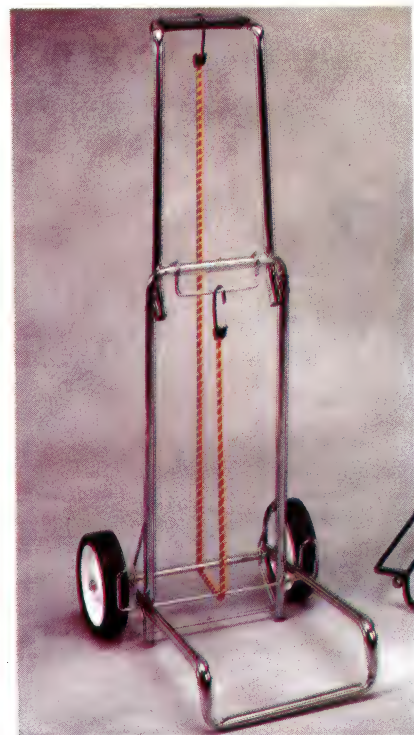
THE CHEF'S CATALOG. GO CC
WARING PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN BLENDER
 LIST PRICE \$150
SALE PRICE \$119



Say "Happy Father's Day" with extra tenderness.

For the perfect Father's Day feast, send Dad these tender, juicy steaks that will melt in his mouth! Thick, luscious cuts of finest cornfed beef, aged to perfection and hand-trimmed. Six 5-oz. filet mignons (a \$51.95 value) for a special treat!

OMAHA STEAKS. GO OS
SIX 5-OZ. FILET MIGNONS \$29.95



Save \$9 on this handy Luggage Cart.

Lightweight, portable and very durable, this sturdy luggage cart carries heavy bags, yet folds to a compact 10" x 22" x 4". Stock No. SPR-51000.

PENNY WISE OFFICE PRODUCTS. GO PW
HANDY LUGGAGE CART
 LIST PRICE \$31.95
SALE PRICE \$22.95



INTERNATIONAL
DELIVERY
 AVAILABLE

Delve into the past with award-winning Civilization!

Take an unforgettable trip through 16 centuries of the most glorious achievements of Western civilization with renowned historian and scholar Kenneth Clark. This remarkable seven-part videocassette series, originally broadcast on PBS, will make a wonderful addition to your library. Approximately 670 minutes playing time. Seven volumes, slip-cased. International delivery available.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. GO MMA
CIVILIZATION VIDEOCASSETTES \$150



Cruise the Caribbean and Orlando theme parks, too!

Sail away on The Big Red Boat, on a fabulous all-inclusive cruise to the Bahamas for three or four nights. Then wind up touring the Orlando theme parks. Seven nights of fabulous fun, food and entertainment. Includes round-trip airfare, rental car, admissions to Walt Disney World® Resort, Universal Studios Florida®, Sea World® and Church Street Station. Details online.

**COMPU-CRUISE BY ROSENBLUTH VACATIONS.
GO CRUISE**



Enjoy the hospitality of a French family in the Provinces with Air France.

See the French countryside as the natives do with an Air France Bed-and-Breakfast Vacation. The Café Couette families will welcome you as if you were a family member. A wonderful opportunity to experience French country living firsthand. Only \$37 per night per person, including breakfast. For details, request your free France and Europe Flexi-Plan brochure online.

AIR FRANCE. GO AF



Travel in style with the Jaguar Capri™ Luggage Set from JCPenney.

No matter what your destination, the three-piece Jaguar Capri Luggage Set will make your trip easier. Constructed of lightweight nylon for packing flexibility. Self-repairing zippers. Set includes 27" Pullman, 21" Carry-On and Tote. Black, navy or teal.

**JCPENNEY. GO JCP
JAGUAR CAPRI LUGGAGE SET \$79.99**



Explore 12 breathtaking drives from the Grand Canyon and Cajun country to the Blue Ridge Mountains and more. *U.S. News & World Report's* new *1994 Great Vacation Drives* travel guidebook is full of beautiful photography as well as maps, tips and interesting side trips. State-by-state listing, summer-time festivals, amusement parks and more. Go online for details.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. GO USM
1994 GREAT VACATION DRIVES \$8.95

Protect his golf clubs with these rugged travel covers from Austad's. The Woodstream travel case provides the ultimate hard-shell protection during travel, with easy rolling wheels. The Deluxe travel cover is made of tough Cordura nylon to stand up to rough airline travel. Either can be personalized.

AUSTAD'S. GO AU
WOODSTREAM TRAVEL CASE \$75
DELUXE TRAVEL COVER \$59.95

Glide through crowded terminals with this sturdy rolling carry-on. Retractable pull-handle takes up no interior space. Measures only 22" x 14" x 7" and meets airline standard for overhead compartments.

SEARS SHOP AT HOME.
GO SR
THE SKY TAXI II \$59.99



Get 8 CDs for the price of 1 from BMG Music Service!

Here's a wonderful way to build your CD collection at incredible savings. Join the BMG Music Service and take 4 **free** CDs now. Buy 1 more selection at regular Club prices and get 3 more CDs **free!** A savings of over \$100 and **nothing more to buy, ever!** Select from hundreds of releases.

**BMG MUSIC SERVICE.
GO CD/GO BMG**



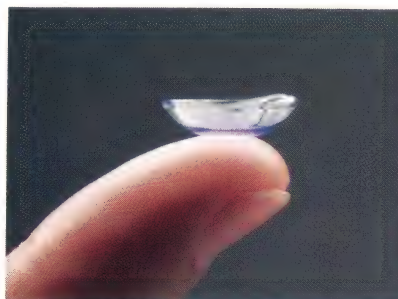
L'eggs Hanes® BALI Playtex
OUTLET CATALOG

TOP BRANDS! OUTLET PRICES! SAVE UP TO 60% INSIDE!

Save up to 65% on replacement contact lenses from Contact Lens Supply.

Get replacement contact lenses fast and *save*! Contact Lens Supply features every prescription, every brand, at savings up to 65%. All in-stock items are shipped within 24 hours. And now we ship to Canada, too! Get a *free* \$5 CompuServe connect-time credit with any lens purchase over \$50.

CONTACT LENS SUPPLY. GO CL



Stretch your "dining out" dollars with Premier Dining.

Enjoy two-for-one savings on entrees on first-time visits and 20% discounts on repeat visits. Select from hundreds of popular restaurants in your local area. Get a special "Night Out On The Town!" package (includes two free movie passes and three months Premier Dining membership for only \$1!). Available in 48 markets. Get complete details online.

PREMIER DINING. GO DINE



Stock up on great savings from Hanes!

Just wait'll we get our Hanes on you!™ You'll find terrific values for Father's Day from the L'eggs® Hanes® Bali® Playtex® online store. Save up to 57% off suggested retail prices on a variety of Hanes briefs, boxers and *new* cool comfort briefs! They're slightly imperfect (no obvious flaws) and a great gift idea for Dad.

L'EGGS HANES BALI PLAYTEX. GO HANES

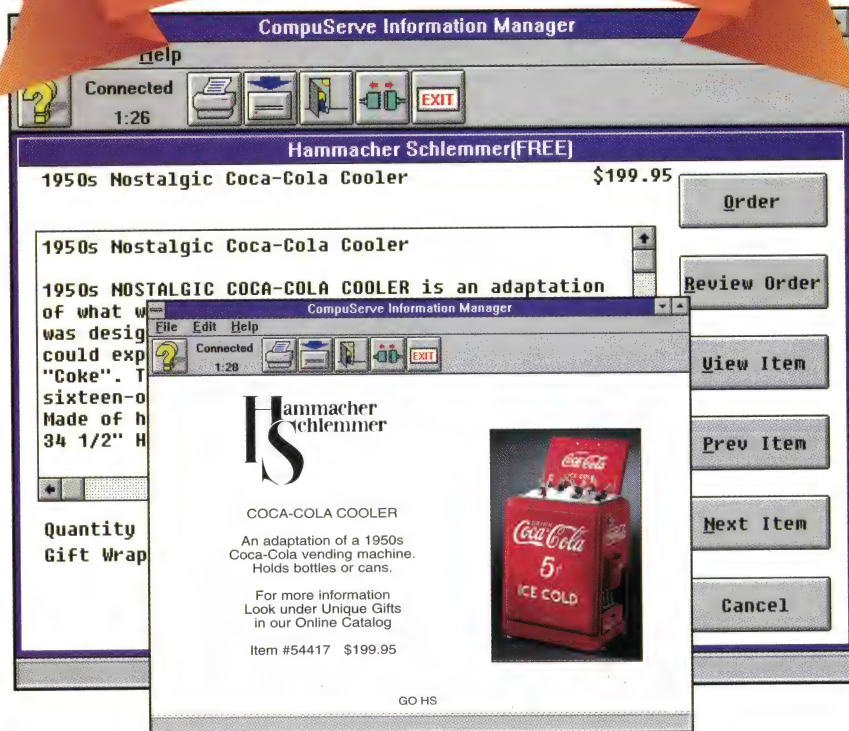


Surround yourself with Sony's new Home Entertainment Sound System.

The Sony SA-VA3 has everything you need to create theater-like listening experience. Features Dolby Pro Logic Decoder, center channel speaker, dedicated amplifiers and subwoofers. Remote control included. Plugs into any TV or VCR. Speakers measure 41" H x 7 7/8" W x 14 3/4" D each.

**Z-BEST ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCE. GO ZBEST
SONY SA-VA3 HOME ENTERTAINMENT
SOUND SYSTEM \$735.99**

THE NEW MALL GRAND OPENING



Win a \$1,000 Shopping Spree at the New Mall!

The Grand Opening of the New Electronic Mall features a whole new look for electronic shopping. With *CompuServe Information Manager* for DOS (version 2.2.2), Mac (version 2.3.1) or Windows (version 1.2), you can stop in at most stores, browse product descriptions, view brilliant GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) images and place orders — all from the same screen! And to celebrate the opening of the New Mall, we're giving away a \$1,000 online shopping spree! Simply take our short online survey and you'll be registered for the drawing. No purchase is necessary. For your chance to win, GO MALL!

Win Exciting Prizes in the New Mall's "Mystery Door" Contest!

Take a look at the New Mall and you'll find three "Mystery Doors" waiting to be opened. Behind each one will be a GIF graphic and a description. View each prize and register for the one you'd most like to

win. Your name will be entered in a random drawing for the prize you choose. No purchase is necessary. GO MALL for details.



Tiffany Stained Glass Window

The Museum's adaptation of Tiffany's View of Oyster Bay stained glass. Pewter chain with antique finish included. Retail value, \$95.

FROM THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.
GO MMA



Gourmet Treats Basket

The civilized way to munch! Includes imported cheeses, luscious chocolates, salmon files, picante salsa, smoked oysters, smoked sausages, gourmet popcorn, teas and coffees. Retail value, \$125.

FROM 800-FLOWERS & 800-GIFTHOUSE. GO FGH



Two Great Prizes!

One-year Travelers Advantage membership. Get 5% cash back on all travel and more. \$49 value.

1-year Premier Dining membership. Enjoy two-for-one dining at over 9,000 restaurants. \$49 value.

FROM TRAVELERS ADVANTAGE. GO TA
FROM PREMIER DINING. GO DINE

MALL REFERENCE

A wide world of shopping
at your fingertips.

Shopping has never been easier.

The Electronic Mall puts over

120 stores at your fingertips.

You can shop free 24 hours a day,

365 days a year, for a wide array

of products, information and

services. Use the handy directory
on these two pages for a complete

listing by category of Mall stores

and their GO commands. Then

GO MALL to shop online or to find

worldwide shipping information,

payment options, a detailed product

index, a directory of print catalogs,

and the latest Mall news, events and

contests. GO MALL

THE
ELECTRONIC
M·A·L·L®

No matter which pricing plan you have on CompuServe,
shopping The Electronic Mall is connect-free, 24 hours
a day, 365 days a year.

APPAREL/DEPARTMENT STORES

AC	Americana Clothing
AU	Austad's
BR	Brooks Brothers
JCP	JCPenney
LANDS	Lands' End
LEGGS	L'eggs Hanes Bali Playtex
PG	Patagonia
PFS	Paul Fredrick Shirt Company
SAC	Shoppers Advantage Club

CATALOG INFO



ARTS/MUSIC/VIDEO

BBCM	BBC Magazine
CD	BMG Compact Disc Club
BOT	Books on Tape
BEM	Bose Express Music
CVA	Colonel Video & Audio
FREECD	Columbia House
CCV	Critics' Choice Video
JR	Justice Records
LE	The Laser's Edge
MMA	The Metropolitan Museum of Art
MAO	Music Alley Online
NP	Narada Productions
COUNTR	New Country Music Magazine
ROCKVI	Rock Video Monthly

AUTO/BOAT/RV

AI	Automobile Information Center
AQ	AutoQuot-R
ATV	AutoVantage Online
▼ CAD	Cadillac Motor Car
ESCORT	The Escort Store
FORD	Ford Electronic Showroom
FMC	Ford Motor Company
LM	Lincoln-Mercury Electronic Showroom
PON	Pontiac Showroom

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

BOMC	Book-of-the-Month Clubs
BOT	Books On Tape
BH	Breton Harbor Baskets and Gifts
▼ CCB	Children's Book-of-the-Month Club
CBK	CompuBooks
ORDER	CompuServe Store
DB	Data Based Advisor
▼ DFP	Detroit Free Press
ENT	Entrepreneur Group
FCB	Fortune Book Club
HAR	HarperCollins Online
HCB	History Book Club
JR	Justice Records
LOS	Library of Science Book Club
MMP	Macmillan Publishing Company
MC	MacUser
MSP	Microsoft Press
MH	McGraw-Hill On-Line Bookstore
NN	NewsNet
ND	Nicholas Direct
PCC	PC/Computing
PM	PC Magazine
PCB	PC Publications
PRC	PRC Database Publishing
PPP	Peachpit Press
QPB	Quality Paperback Book Club
BK	Small Computer Book Club
USM	U.S. News & World Report
JW	Wiley Pro-Shop
WS	Windows Sources

CLUBS/MEMBERSHIPS

ATV	AutoVantage Online
CD	BMG Compact Disc Club
BOMC	Book-of-the-Month Clubs
BEM	Bose Express Music
CCB	Children's Book-of-the-Month Club
FREECD	Columbia House
CARD	CompuServe Visa Store
FFS	Florida Fruit Shippers
FCB	Fortune Book Club
LOS	Library of Science Book Club
▼ DINE	Premier Dining
QPB	Quality Paperback Book Club
SAC	Shoppers Advantage Club
BK	Small Computer Book Club
SP	Softdisk Publishing
▼ TA	Travelers Advantage

COMPUTER HARDWARE/ SUPPLIES

DP	AT&T Online Store
CTR	CitiTronics Memory
CBK	CompuBooks
CE	Computer Express
CS	Computer Shopper
CA	Concord Direct
DA	Dalco Computer Electronics
DD	Digital's PC Store
DM	Direct Micro
PWM	Exec/Direct
HTH	The Heath Company
IL	IBMLink
JDR	JDR Microdevices
MMP	Macmillan Publishing Company
MC	MacUser
MW	MacWarehouse
MZ	Mac Zone/PC Zone
MH	The McGraw-Hill On-line Bookstore
MCS	Mission Control Software
MCW	MicroWarehouse
PA	Parsons Technology
PCA	PC Catalog
PCC	PC/Computing
PM	PC Magazine
PCB	PC Publications
PRC	PRC Database Publishing
SR	Sears
BK	Small Computer Book Club
WS	Windows Sources



COMPUTER SOFTWARE

- ▼ ABSOLU Absolut Vodka
- BB Broderbund
- CF CheckFree Corporation •
- ORDER CompuServe Store ★
- CE Computer Express
- CS Computer Shopper
- DB Data Based Advisor
- DD Digital's PC Store •
- EP Epic MegaGames
- PWM Exec/Direct
- FORD Ford Electronic Showroom ■
- IBMPSP IBM Personal Software Products •
- JDR JDR Microdevices
- MW MacWarehouse
- MZ Mac Zone/PC Zone
- MCS Mission Control Software
- MCW MicroWarehouse
- PA Parsons Technology
- PCA PC Catalog •
- SAF Safeware Computer Insurance
- SD Shareware Depot ■
- SI Sierra Online
- SP Softdisk Publishing

CATALOG INFO



GO MALL



GIFTS/FLOWERS/ GOURMET FOODS

- FGH 800-Flowers & 800-GiftHouse
- AIF Adventures in Food ★
- AK Alaska Peddler
- BH Breton Harbor Baskets and Gifts
- BR Brooks Brothers
- CC The Chef's Catalog •
- COF Coffee Anyone ???
- EX Executive Stamper ■
- FG Figi's Gifts •
- FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ★
- FS Flower Stop •
- ▼ FTD FTD ONLINE •
- GW Garrett Wade Woodworking
- GS The Gift Sender
- GIM Gimmee Jimmy's Cookies
- GMR Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
- HS Hammacher Schlemmer
- HAM Honey Baked Ham •
- LANDS Lands' End
- LE The Laser's Edge
- MMA The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- OS Omaha Steaks •
- PFS Paul Fredrick Shirt Company
- ▼ DINE Premier Dining •
- SUN Sunglasses, Shavers & More
- DINER Virginia Diner
- WK Walter Knoll Florist

HOBBIES/TOYS/PETS

- GW Garrett Wade Woodworking
- IAMS The IAMS Company •
- MAO Music Alley Online

INVESTMENTS/FINANCE/ REAL ESTATE

- INC Business Incorporating Guide
- CF Checkfree Corporation •
- CORP The Company Corporation
- CARD CompuServe Visa Store •
- CIC Continental Insurancenter •
- DR Dreyfus Corporation •
- ENT Entrepreneur Group •
- ▼ EAM Express America Mortgage •
- HRB H&R Block •
- HF HomeFinder by AMS ■
- TKR Max Ule Discount Brokerage ★
- NN NewsNet ■
- RELO Relocation Network •
- SAF Safeware Computer Insurance
- SD Shareware Depot ■
- CRE TRW Credentials •
- TC Twentieth Century Mutual Funds
- UP University of Phoenix •
- JW Wiley Pro-Shop •

MERCHANDISE/ ELECTRONICS



- CC The Chef's Catalog
- CVA Colonel Video & Audio
- CA Concord Direct ★
- CFD Crutchfield Electronics •
- BEDS Dial-A-Matress •
- ESCORT The Escort Store •
- FMC Ford Motor Company ■
- HS Hammacher Schlemmer
- HTH The Heath Company
- JCP JCPenney ■
- PWP Penny Wise Custom Print Shop •
- SR Sears •
- SUN Sunglasses, Shavers and More
- ZBEST Z Best Electronics & Appliance

OFFICE SUPPLIES/ BUSINESS SERVICES

- INC Business Incorporating Guide
- CORP The Company Corporation
- CARD CompuServe Visa Store •
- DM Direct Micro
- DR Dreyfus Corporation •
- EX Executive Stamper ■
- HRB H&R Block •
- TTS H&R Block Tax Training School •
- HF HomeFinder by AMS ■
- TKR Max Ule Discount Brokerage ★
- ND Nicholas Direct
- PWP Penny Wise Custom Print Shop •
- PW Penny Wise Office Products •
- RELO Relocation Network •
- SR Sears •
- TC Twentieth Century Mutual Funds
- USM U.S. News & World Report

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

- AC Americana Clothing
- AU Austad's •
- CL Contact Lens Supply
- RX Health & Vitamin Express
- ▼ LENS Lens Express
- ▼ SDV SDV Vitamins ★

TRAVEL/VACATIONS

- AF Air France ■
- ASU Airline Services Unlimited
- AK Alaska Peddler
- CRUISE Compu-Cruise by Rosenbluth
- ▼ TA Travelers Advantage •

HOW TO SHOP:

When you see a product you would like to purchase, if prompted, type "O" to order. Otherwise, simply select the item from the menu. Continue shopping, or complete the order by typing "CHECKOUT." An electronic order form will appear and you will be prompted for all pertinent information such as size, color, delivery method and credit card billing. To cancel your order at any time, type "EXIT." Before your order is sent to the Mall merchant, you will have the opportunity to verify that your order is correct and to make any necessary changes. Once your order is complete, a CompuServe order number will be given.

SHIPPING:

Shopping in most stores in The Electronic Mall is available to CompuServe members around the world. Certain postal, national and trade laws prevent certain Electronic Mall merchants from being able to ship their goods to all areas. The following guide will help you with your store selection:

- U.S. Only
- U.S. and Canada

- ★ Please go online for details.
- All other merchants ship worldwide.

▼ The Electronic Mall is pleased to welcome our newest merchants!

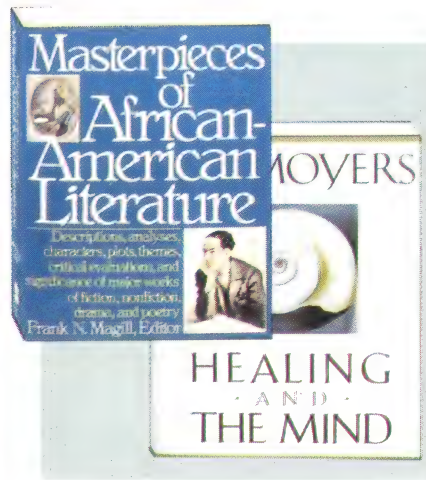
THE MALL'S

It's time to "get away from it all!" Here are 11 "Great Escapes" where you could win prizes, rack up CompuServe connect-time credits or save money.



Sunglasses, Shavers & More Cruise Special

Buy any pair of sunglasses at Sunglasses, Shavers & More and get a gift certificate for \$100 off select seven-day cruises at Compu-Cruise by Rosenbluth Vacations. (Savings per cabin, based on double occupancy.) Complete details online. GO SUN or GO CRUISE for details.



Quality Paperback Book Club Author Challenge

Take Quality Paperback Book Club's Author Challenge and win a \$25 connect-time credit. Guess the mystery author from weekly clues online to test your literary prowess. New contest every week. GO QPB



Alaska Peddler's Trivia Contest

Play Alaska Peddler's Trivia Contest and win a \$50 Prize Package! Just answer all questions correctly to be entered in the random drawing. Prizes include Sockeye salmon, a Ulu knife, Fireweed Syrup, Spruce Tip Jelly, Alaska Blueberry Tea and Wild Berry Chocolates. GO AK



Airline Services Unlimited Travel Story Contest

Share your travel story and win a Travelpro® 22-in. Rolladuffle! Send your favorite story in 50 words or less to enter the random drawing. More than a suitcase, this carry-on duffel doubles as a backpack. Retail value, \$149.95. GO ASU



Justice Records' Mystery Artist Contest

Win a \$100 connect-time credit in Justice Records' Mystery Artist Contest. A new contest each week, with new clues and a new \$100 prize! All correct answers will be entered in a random drawing. GO JR



Austad's Golf Trivia Contest

Play Austad's Golf Trivia Contest and win a custom 5 Iron from AccuTech built just for you. Up to \$35 value! Answer all three golf trivia questions correctly to be entered in the drawing for the Grand Prize. GO AU

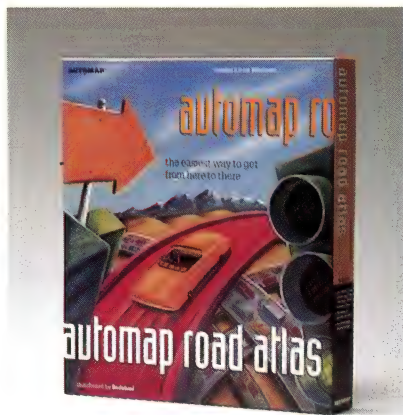
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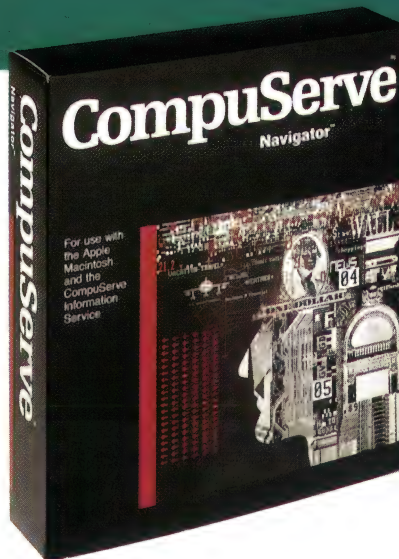
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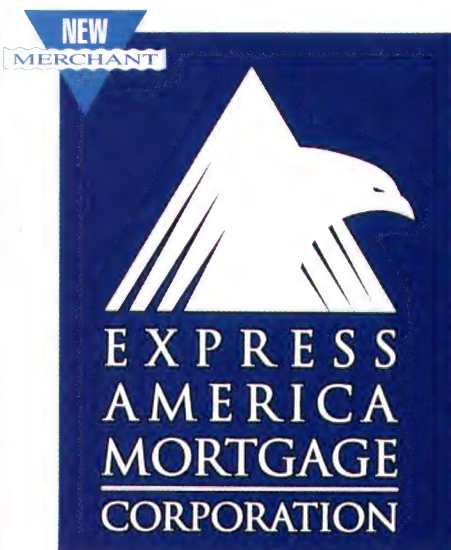
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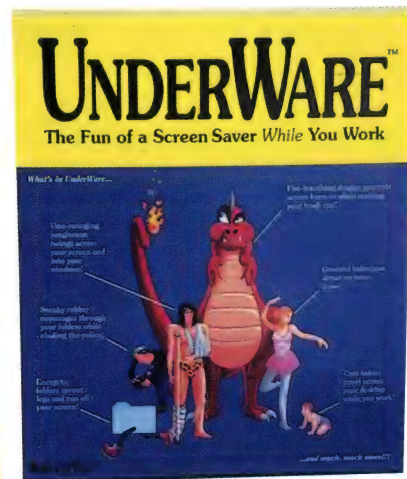
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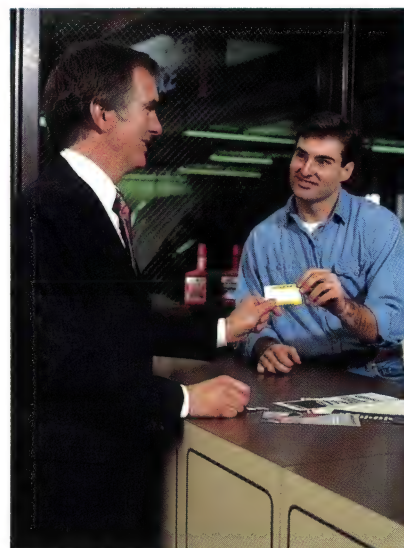
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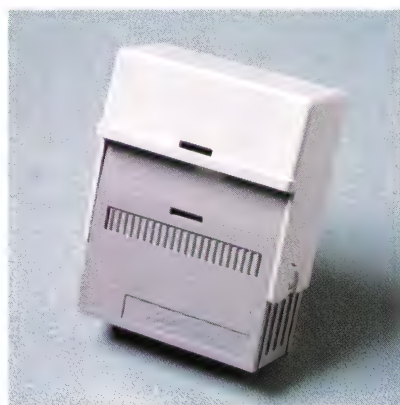
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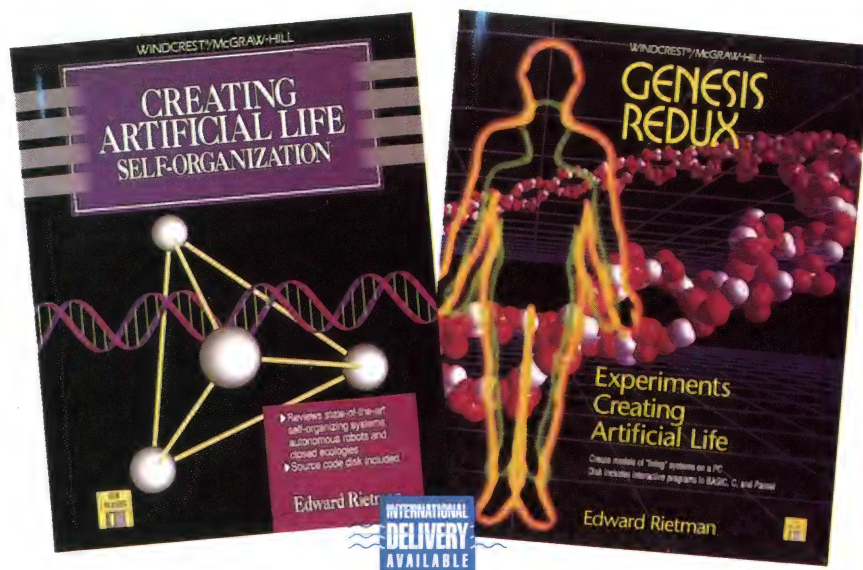
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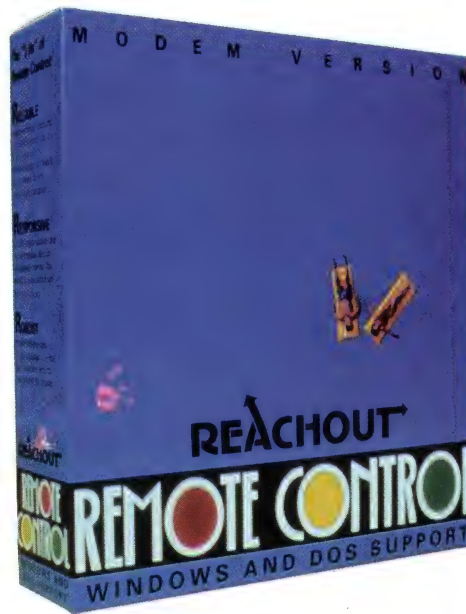
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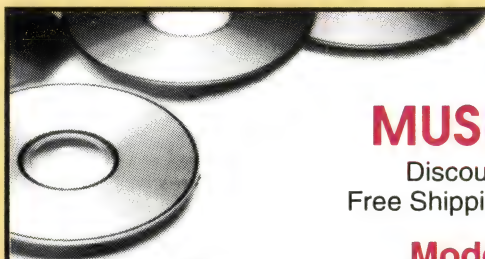
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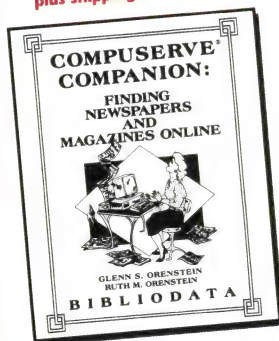


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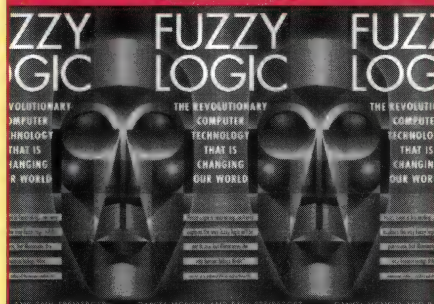
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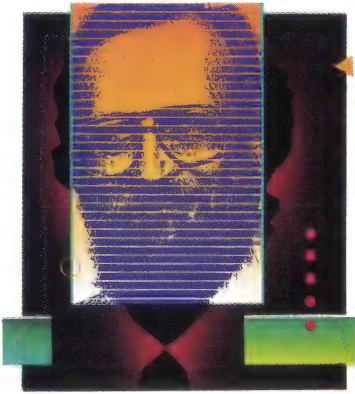
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How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe

with Charles Bowen



Where can I find a copy of the Hippocratic Oath taken by physicians?

Daniel C. O'Neill
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

You can get a copy of the Hippocratic Oath in *Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia* (GO GROLIERS). Select the Search Encyclopedia option and at the Search term prompt type HIPPOCRATIC. As the resulting overview tells us, in 1948 in Geneva a modern version of the oath was drawn up by the World Medical Association. The text, as amended in 1968, is available.

Where can I get a complete list of extended services?

Frank K. Takara
Paramount, California

GO INDEX to reach the index feature. The resulting Find a Topic menu will give you options to search for a topic of interest, list all the indexed topics and read an explanation of the feature. Select Option 2, "List ALL Indexed Topics." Be aware that this is a long list (about 36K the last time I picked it up). On the resulting list, all items with a plus sign (+) are extended services.

I would like to share information about the Civil War with others. Is there a forum that breaks that out as a discrete subject?

C. Stanley Stubbe
Pottstown, Pennsylvania

While there isn't a forum devoted specifically to the Civil War, you might want to visit the Military Forum (GO MILITARY), where sections of the message board and a library are devoted to the Civil War. Also, the war is a favorite topic in the History section of the Genealogy Forum (GO ROOTS). Don't forget the new Living History Forum (GO LIVING), which invites history buffs and re-enactors for various discussions, including those devoted to the Civil War.

Is there one place to go on CompuServe to find information about CD-ROM products?

Susan Caskey
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CD-ROM topics are covered in several features. For starters, the CD-ROM Forum (GO CDROM) is operated by the Optical Publishing Association of Columbus, Ohio, in cooperation with Metatec/Discovery Systems, a CD-ROM mastering and replication facility in Dublin, Ohio. Also, the CD-ROM Vendor Forum (GO CDVEN) supports various makers and sellers of CD-ROM products. In addition, check out the Multimedia Forum (GO MULTIMEDIA); and the Kodak CD Forum (GO KODAK). Finally, CD Computing News and CD-ROM databases are searchable through IQuest (GO IQUEST). They also can be searched through Business Database Plus (GO BUSDB), as can *CD-ROM Librarian* and *CD-ROM Professional*.

Are there any forums on CompuServe that support the IBM AS/400 mid-range system?

Stephen Sells
Los Angeles, California

IBMNET Administrator Don Watkins says there are some AS/400 APPC users in the APPC (Advanced Program-to-Program Communications) Information Exchange Forum (GO APPC). Also, check out the mainframe section of the IBM Hardware Forum (GO IBMHW). Watkins also recommends the Computer Consultants' Forum (GO CONSULT).

Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of CompuServe Magazine, author of CompuServe from A to Z and co-author of How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe, both from Random House.

Send questions to CompuServe User ID number 70007,411. If your question is answered in this column, we'll apply a \$25 connect credit to your CompuServe account.

Mensa® Puzzler

This month's puzzle was submitted by CompuServe member Gregg M. Gallatin. You'll find the answer to this month's puzzle in the Mensa Forum's News Flash (GO MENSA).

A and B are positive integers greater than one. Mathematician "S" knows only the sum of A and B. Mathematician "P" knows only the product of A and B. The following conversation occurs between S and P:



S says to P,
"You don't know A and B."

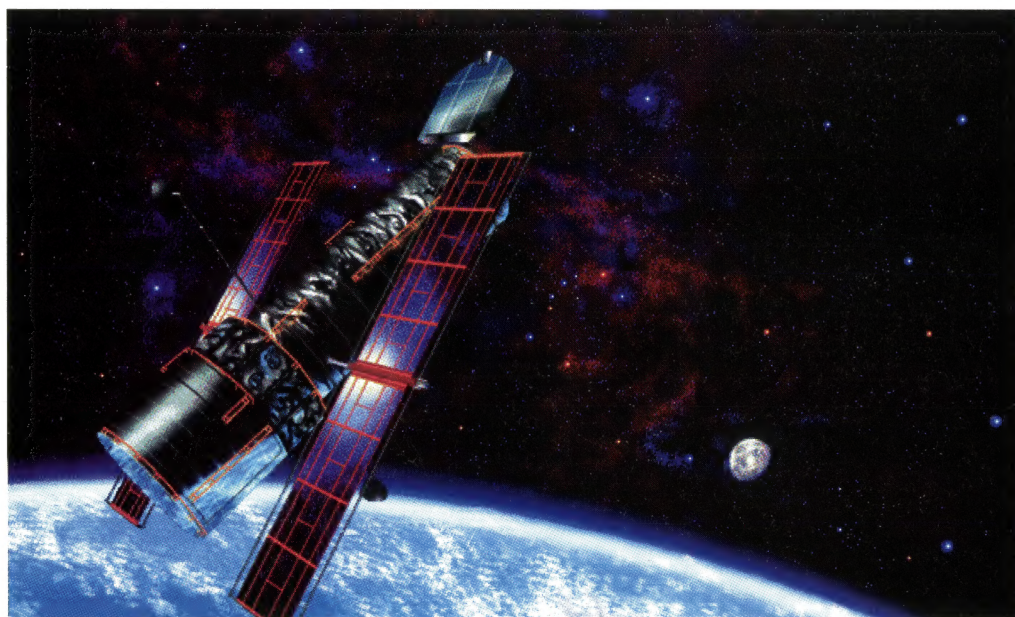
P says to S,
"Now I do know A and B."

S says to P,
"Now I know A and B as well."

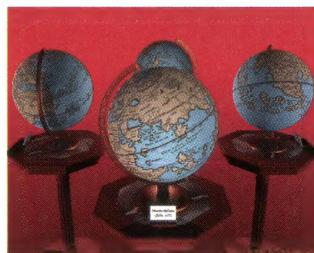
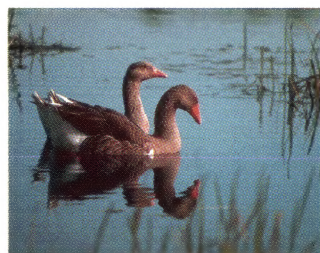
What are the values of A and B?

Do you have a Puzzler that you'd like to share with CM readers? Send your entry of no more than five brief puzzles (with answers) to: Puzzlers, *CompuServe Magazine*, P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220. Include your full name, address, daytime telephone number and CompuServe User ID number. Puzzles that are not sensitive to character positioning may be sent by CompuServe Mail to User ID number 76004,3302. If your puzzle is used here, we'll credit \$35 to your CompuServe account.

Graphic of the Month



CM's Graphic of the Month for June is a depiction of the Hubble Space Telescope orbiting above Earth by Joe Bergeron. The success of missions to repair and refurbish the telescope inspired Bergeron to create the image on his Macintosh IIsi. He modeled the telescope with Swivel 3D Professional, painted the detail and lighting with PixelPaint Professional 2.0 and then dropped the image onto a space background also done in PixelPaint. The image resolution is 640 x 480. The image, HUBBLE.GIF, can be found in the Computer Art Forum's (GO COMART) Library 3, "Hall of Fame." Bergeron spent years painting by traditional methods before becoming interested in computer graphics a few years ago when Apple introduced its first "affordable" color Macintosh computers. He has uploaded many of his images to the Computer Art Forum. Members can also view selected images of his traditional artwork in the Fine Art Forum's (GO FINEART) Library 15, "Joe Bergeron."



This month's runners-up are "White Fronted Geese Before Flight" by Bob Orsillo, found in the Photography Forum's (GO PHOTOFORUM) Library 7, "GIF/JPG/Nature," GEESE1.GIF (151,978 bytes); "The Maltese Falcon," a movie poster found in the Archive Photo Forum's (GO ARCHIVE) Library 2, "Film Posters," C13325.GIF (236,241 bytes); and "Globe by Martin Behaim, 1492" by Bob Schadewald, found in the Graphics Developers Forum's (GO GRAPHDEV) Library 9, "POV Images," BEHAIM.GIF (344,169 bytes).

MEMBER ESSAY

Hitting the Right Software Note

I'm a composer and own and operate a recording studio that creates soundtracks for films and videos. All music scoring is done with synthesizers, samplers, computers and Musical Instrument Digital Interface. Recently, I had to install a new hard drive in my primary studio computer. Upon re-installing the necessary software, I discovered that one of my master software disks was damaged, and I could not recover the software I needed. This made me nervous as I had a recording session scheduled with an important client for the next day.

When I called the software company, I found that their shipping department was closed for four days due to first-of-the-year inventory. I

panicked and tried to obtain the software from friends or local dealers with no luck. Finally, I thought to check CompuServe to see if I might be able to find it online. Luckily, the software company maintains a vendor forum and was able to upload the software, allowing me to download it, install it, and get my system up and running by my recording session the next day. A business disaster was avoided.

Phil DeVault
Seattle, Washington

If you have a favorite image on CompuServe, consider nominating it as a Graphic of the Month. Provide the file name and identify the forum and library where the image is stored (do not send the files themselves) and send the information by CompuServe Mail to User ID number 76004,716. If the image you nominate is published in this column, you and the image uploader/creator will receive a \$25 CompuServe account credit. Image uploaders/creators are permitted to nominate themselves, but only one \$25 credit is applied to each member.

Compete for \$50 worth of connect-time credits in *CompuServe Magazine's* monthly Member Essay contest. Write a 200-word essay describing an original way you've used the Information Service and send it to CompuServe User ID number 76004,3302. Include your full name and address.

UPDATE



Get U.S. News World Views

Access *U.S. News & World Report's* award-winning graphics and photos, as well as articles ranging from profiles of world newsmakers to in-depth science stories in the U.S. News Forum. View GIF images of former U.S. presidents and graphics featuring the NASA space station, the history of language, and other science and technology images in the forum's libraries. Photos and profiles of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. President Bill Clinton (shown above) and other political leaders are also available. GO USNFORUM



RALPH NELSON

Win Passes to The Shadow

Win advance screening passes to the Universal Pictures film *The Shadow* or the grand prize: a trip for two to the Hollywood premiere. Opening this July, the film stars Alec Baldwin (shown above) as Lamont Cranston and his alter ego The Shadow, and Penelope Ann Miller as Margo Lane. If you correctly answer two multiple choice questions about the movie, you'll be entered in a random drawing for the screening tickets (50 pairs will be awarded in 50 U.S. cities) and the grand prize. For more information and to enter, GO SHADOW.

Take part in "A Date with The Smithereens," a live conference with The Smithereens music group. Check the Music Vendor Forum's News Flash for the conference date and time. Also, download Smithereens song files, artist pictures and more from the forum's Library 12, "RCA Records." GO RCA

Interact with private investigators, police, crime authors and other experts in the Time Warner Crime Forum. Participate in discussions with survivors and law enforcement agents, and access crime reports, GIF images of criminals and criminals-wanted notices. GO TWCRIME

First-time users of Computer Database Plus receive up to a \$5 rebate on surcharges incurred during their first session in June. Retrieve full-text articles or abstracts from more than 200 computer publications. GO COMPDB

Join the "Cyberspace Censorship" conference, sponsored by the Graphics forums and *Playboy* magazine. Special Counsel to Playboy Enterprises Burton Joseph, *Playboy* Rock Critic and anti-censorship activist Dave Marsh, *Playboy* Senior Staff Writer James Petersen and others will discuss First Amendment issues pertaining to evolving media technology. The conference is scheduled for June 16. For more information, GO GRAPHNEWS.

German-speaking users of IBM OS/2 products can access the IBM PSP Deutschland Forum for help and information from IBM PSP support staff. Libraries contain drivers and other software, product information and more. GO OS2UGER

First-time users of Magazine Database Plus get two articles with no transaction charge during their first session in June. Retrieve full-text articles from more than 140 general-interest publications, including *The Economist*, *Forbes* and *The New Republic*. GO MAGDB

Get support from hardware and software companies in the German-language PC Industrie Forum. German vendors, including Quarterdeck Germany, FAST Electronic, miro Computer Products, ENZ EDV-Beratung, DMA-Multimedia, Tobit Software and CPV Stollmann Datensysteme, offer technical support, product updates and more. GO PCIND

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*Thom Hartmann,
Sysop, Desktop Publishing Forum*

"In May of this year we incorporated with you and are extremely happy with the services you provided. With your services, you took the mystery out of incorporating and made Delaware law work for us. It's also nice to know that whenever we have a question, we can just dial you up (as we did quite a few times when we were filling out those S status filing and EIN application forms!). Thanks again for all your help!"

*Janice and Robert Pfister
J&R Marketing Incorporated*

"I've now set-up four corporations online with The Company Corporation. Each time it was a pleasure to deal with them—the process was just as fast and easy as promised! Everyone I communicated with was very friendly and knowledgeable. I recommend The Company Corporation to everyone who needs to form a corporation."

*Julian Sorel
Sorel Data Services*

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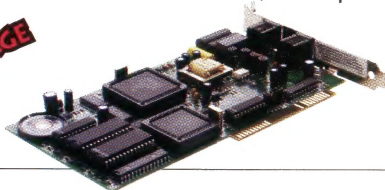
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